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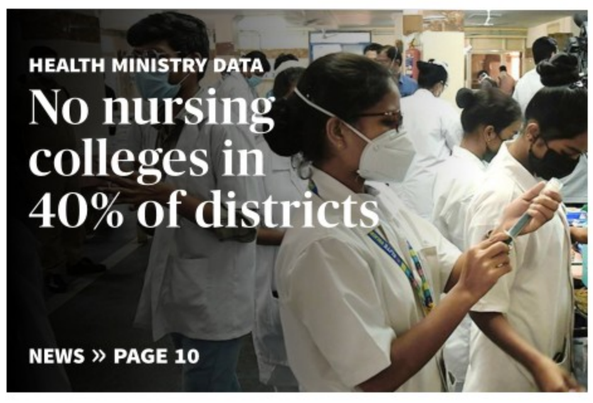

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Gruha Jyothi: Consumers confused

BENGALURU
Although the government had announced that Gruha Jyothi scheme will be applicable to eligible consumers from July 1, the issuing of bills by Bescom, which includes days of July in the billing period of June, has attracted the ire of consumers.
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HC stays probe on FIR against Amit Malviya

BENGALURU
The High Court stayed the FIR registered against Amit Malviya, head of BJP's IT cell based on a complaint filed by Ramesh Babu, co-chairman of KPCC's communication department. » PAGE 5

Activist Teesta Setalvad to continue on bail, says SC

Special Bench quashes Gujarat High Court order that she surrender immediately in a forgery case linked to the 2002 riots; the top court says the High Court order is riddled with 'contradictions'

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Road to relief
A brief chronology of the Teesta Setalvad case

June 25, 2022: Gujarat Police arrest the activist in Mumbai in a forgery case linked to the 2002 riots

September 2, 2022: Supreme Court grants her interim bail

July 1, 2023: Gujarat High Court refuses her regular bail, orders her immediate surrender. The SC protects her from arrest the same night

July 5, 2023: SC orders her interim protection to continue till further orders. Lists the case on July 19

July 19, 2023: SC quashes and sets aside Gujarat HC decision. Setalvad to continue on bail

The Supreme Court on Wednesday quashed a July 1 order of the Gujarat High Court directing activist Teesta Setalvad to surrender immediately in a forgery case linked to the 2002 riots.

The top court said Ms. Setalvad would continue on bail in accordance with its September 2, 2022 order.

"The FIR [First Information Report] you filed in this case in June 2022 says she fabricated the statements [of the riot victims] given to the Special Investigation Team [SIT]. These statements were given in 2008 till 2011... What were you doing since 2011?" a Special Bench, headed by Justice B.R. Gavai, asked the Gujarat Police, represented by Additional Solicitor-General S.V. Raju.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, for Ms. Setalvad, said the contents of the victims' statements/affidavits were never challenged in the past 20 years. "Why now? There is no logic," he submitted.

The Bench, which included Justices A.S. Bopanna and Dipankar Datta, said the High Court order, spanning over a 100 pages, proved to be an "interesting read" and was riddled with "contradictions".

Merits of case

For one, the High Court judge, having resolved to stick to the limited issue of bail and not wander off into the merits of the case, goes on to do exactly that with an elaborate discussion of the evidence against Ms. Setalvad, the Bench noted.

The top court found no reason to send Ms. Setalvad, also represented by senior advocate C.U. Singh and advocate Aparna Bhat, into custody. It said the chargesheet was already filed in the case.

CONTINUED ON
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10 BJP MLAs suspended from House for 'unruly behaviour'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

High drama: Opposition BJP members protesting in the Legislative Assembly in Bengaluru on Wednesday.

The political tussle in the Karnataka Legislative Assembly reached a crescendo on Wednesday with 10 members of the Opposition BJP being suspended for "indiscipline and unruly behaviour" as they tore copies of a Bill and hurled them at Deputy Speaker Rudrappa Lamani while he was in the Speaker's chair.

The members indulged in the act while they were protesting in the Well of the House against appointing IAS officers as liaison officers for the leaders who had attended the national Opposition leaders' meeting in Bengaluru on Monday and Tuesday.

Mr. Lamani named the 10 BJP members who indulged in "indiscipline and the episode of disrespecting the Speaker's chair" and then the Assembly adopted a resolution on suspending them from the House for the remaining two days of proceedings.

Later, turning their ire on the Speaker, BJP leaders submitted a notice to the Assembly Secretary seeking permission to move a no-confidence motion against him in the House.

The suspended BJP members included former Deputy Chief Ministers R. Ashok and C.N. Ashwath Narayan besides former Ministers V. Sunil Kumar and Araga Jnanendra.

The others who were suspended are Arvind Bellad, Vedavyas Kamath, Yashpal Suvarna, Dheeraj Muniraju, Umanath Kotian, and Bharat Y. Shetty. There was high drama even after the suspension as marshals had to physically eject some of the members. BJP members in the Assembly took exception to this and staged a dharna in front of the Speaker's chambers and on the steps of the Vidhana Soudha along with JD(S) members, terming the action as a "political vendetta". However, the police took them into custody.

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ED seeks nod to assist DVAC in case against T.N. Fisheries Minister

Mohamed Imranullah S.
CHENNAI

After training its guns on Tamil Nadu Ministers V. Senthilbalaji and K. Ponmudy, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Wednesday sought to assist the Directorate of Vigilance and Anti Corruption (DVAC) in prosecuting a disproportionate assets case pending against Fisheries Minister Anitha R. Radhakrishnan.

Appearing before the Thoothukudi Principal District Court, Special Public Prosecutor for the ED, N. Ramesh, said the accused was a sitting Minister, and therefore, "the situation should not create even a shadow of public distrust in the handling of prosecution by the State agency".

Anitha R. Radhakrishnan

However, since the DVAC and the accused (including the Minister and his family members) had filed separate counter-affidavits questioning the ED's *locus standi* to "interfere" in the ongoing trial, the Principal District Judge decided to hear all the parties on the Central agency's plea on August 2.

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Women face sexual violence in Manipur, video clip surfaces

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

More than two months after three women were stripped and paraded by a mob in violence-hit Manipur, the police said they have registered a case of gang rape and abduction, and would soon make arrests.

It is among the first cases of sexual violence to be reported and followed up with police action after the clashes started on May 3.

A video clip of the incident surfaced on social media on Wednesday. Two of the women are seen in the clip.

The incident is alleged to have taken place on May 4 at Nongpok Sekmai in Thoubal district when the women were trying to escape a violent mob that had attacked their village in Kangpokpi district.

A police source said that on May 18, a Zero First Information Report was lodged at the Kangpokpi police station. It has now been transferred to Thoubal, the place of the incident.

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Opposition demands debate

The Opposition, at an all-party meeting on Wednesday, demanded a debate in Parliament on the violence in Manipur, insisting it would not settle for anything less than a detailed answer from the Prime Minister. » PAGE 8

Terror module busted in Bengaluru, five arrested

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A suspected terror module was busted by the Central Crime Branch (CCB) on Wednesday. Five persons who were allegedly planning to carry out subversive activities in and around the city were arrested.

Syed Suhel Khan, 24, Mohammed Umar, 29, Zahid Tabarej, 25, Syed Mudaseer Pasha, 28, and Mohammed Fazil Rabbani, 30, were nabbed in Sultanpalya in R.T. Nagar where they had gathered at the house of Suhel for a meeting.

Plan hatched in jail

According to the police, the suspects had been arrested in 2017 in a murder case, and while in the central prison, they met the 2008 serial blast terror suspects and hatched a plan to carry out blasts in the city. After coming out on bail, they started executing the plan, and gathered arms, ammunition, and explosive substances.

Based on a tip-off from Central agencies, CCB officials kept a tab and arrested them, S.D. Sharanappa, Joint Commissioner of Police, said.

Ammunition recovered

The CCB officials recovered seven country-made pistols, 42 rounds of ammunition, two phones, and several SIM cards from them. They had allegedly conducted a series of meetings and were involved in other activities besides collecting arms and ammunition, which the police are probing.

The police have also sent the seized mobile phones to the FSL to retrieve the data to know about their network and links.

Others being tracked

The suspects have been taken into custody for seven days for further investigation, and efforts are on to track down others who are possibly involved in the case.

They have been booked under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, Arms Act, and Section 121 (Waging war against India) and were produced before the special court and taken into custody for detailed questioning.

RELATED REPORT
» PAGE 2

CM launches registration for Gruha Lakshmi

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

With Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday launching registration for Gruha Lakshmi, the Congress government's third pre-poll guarantee scheme, women beneficiaries can start registering to avail of the monthly direct benefit transfer (DBT) of ₹2,000.

As many as 1.28 crore families are set to benefit through this scheme.

Mr. Siddaramaiah asserted that the Congress was for the empowerment of women in all fields and that women should get reservation in the Legislative Assembly and Lok Sabha.

CONTINUED ON
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Books at high-profile libraries just a click away

The Centre is set to launch an online repository of books available at libraries across the country, including Parliament Library, Prime Ministers' Museum and Library, and the Rashtrapati Bhavan

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

In a boon for academics, teachers and writers, the Union government is set to launch an online repository of books accessible at all libraries across the country, including the high-profile Parliament Library, the Prime Ministers' Museum and Library, and the collection at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

The project will be launched on a pilot basis in 13 libraries, including the National Library in Kolkata; the Central Secretariat Library in New Delhi; the Khuda Baksh Oriental Public Library in Patna; and the library at the Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts. It will be replicated across the country after a review, a senior official of the Union Culture Ministry said.

Book club: A view of the Khuda Baksh Oriental Public Library in Patna. The project will initially begin with 13 libraries.

The repository will be available on the Indian Culture Portal and will be chargeable, the official told *The Hindu*. "This is part of the 'One Nation, One Library' concept favoured by Prime Minister Narendra Modi", the official said.

The concept will be unveiled and discussed at a festival of libraries scheduled to be held in the National Capital on August 5 and 6.

15 electrocuted at Namami Gange site in Uttarakhand, Dhami announces inquiry

Press Trust of India
GOPESHWAR/DEHRADUN

Fifteen people were electrocuted and seven injured on Wednesday at a sewage treatment plant of the Namami Gange project on the banks of the Alaknanda in Chamoli district of Uttarakhand, the police said.

Superintendent of Police, Chamoli, Pramendra Dobhal said the police had gone to the spot to prepare a report on the electrocution late on Tuesday of a person working at the project site. Around 11.30 a.m., a surge of electricity passed through a metal railing on the plant premises, killing 15, including police sub-inspector Pradeep Rawat and three Home Guard personnel. It is still being ascertained how it happened, he added.

Rescue mission: An injured person being airlifted to AIIMS-Rishikesh from the project site in Chamoli on Wednesday. PTI

The condition of six injured people, who were airlifted to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences-Rishikesh, is critical, a doctor said. The Uttarakhand Power Corporation Ltd. said the incident took place after power was restored to the sewage treatment plant following a 20-minute shutdown for repairs. It said the cause of the incident can be known only after a detailed investigation, adding that its equipment did not appear to be at fault. Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, accompanied by Cabinet Minister Prem Chand Agarwal, visited AIIMS trauma centre and spoke to doctors. He announced a magisterial inquiry and a compensation of ₹5 lakh to the kin of each victim and ₹1 lakh each to the injured.

Pranati confident of the Indians upping the ante

The two-time Asian championships bronze medallist expects a good competition among the Indians at the vaulting table — with Dipa back in the mix and the presence of Protistha — and will strive to reach her peak again close to the Hangzhou Asian Games in September

Y.B. Sarangi

With Indian gymnastics icon Dipa Karmakar returning to action, two-time Asian championships bronze medallist Pranati Nayak hopes that there will be a good competition at the vaulting table with at least three athletes pushing one another.

Pranati, who competed in the Tokyo Olympics, is excited at the prospect of Indian women giving fine performances in big events. She was delighted to meet Dipa again during the selection trials for the Asian Games at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar recently.

"Gymnastics is incomplete without Dipa didi. She is the golden girl of Indian gymnastics; there is so much to learn from her. Her comeback has boosted us. I felt so good meeting her after some years. Her vault is so strong. Hopefully we will push each other and do well. Myself, Dipa didi and Protistha Samanta (the West Bengal girl who trains with Dipa's coach Bishweshwar Nandi at Agartala) are close to each other in vaulting and I am sure we will have a good competition among ourselves. We need good competition to push each other in order to get good scores," said Pranati.

Dipa, too, is optimistic about the Indian girls' showing in vault. "Our girls are known for vaults. Pranati Nayak and Aruna (Reddy) did well after me. I want the juniors to perform well, not just in vault but in other apparatus. If we have to qualify for the Olympics, we have to focus on all-around along with vault," said Dipa.

On her personal goals, Pranati, who battled injuries in recently before shifting her training base to the newly-built Gymnastics High Performance Centre at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, said her primary target is to get fully fit. "Ashok Mishra Sir, with whom I have trained before, told me that here I would get all the facilities, including a foreign coach, an elite gymnast needs. That's why I came here. At the HPC, you get proper diet, physio, treatment, massage and everything an athlete needs to excel," said Pranati.

Looking back at her struggle due to the injury last year, Pranati said, "After the National Games selection trials (last year), I picked up the injury – a ligament tear in my right shoulder. I was in two minds about competing in the National Games, but I participated for my State. I had to compete for my State (West Bengal). I had this injury due to overload. I performed for three

consecutive days at the National Games and because of that my shoulder injury got aggravated. In the World championships in Liverpool, just after the National Games in October, I could not give my best there, but managed to take part.

"After that I did rehab for six months, stayed completely away from gymnastics. Two-three doctors advised surgery and some physiotherapists said if I did proper rehab and stayed away from gymnastics, then this injury would become alright without any surgery. I got treated at the Reliance Foundation Hospital in Mumbai for two months. I was not 100 per cent fit by the time of the Asian championships trials (in May), but I had to give the trials. Then I participated in the Asian championship (where I did 12.733 in qualification and 12.417 in the final in vault)," said Pranati, who availed the option of sticking to her Asian championships scores for the Asiad selection instead of going through the trials.

The 28-year-old was confident of mastering a more difficult vault technique and reaching her peak again by the time the Hangzhou Asian Games is held in September.

"My main focus is the vault. I hope to improve my performance in the next two months. I can reach my peak. I got my best score (13.384) in Mongolia (while winning a bronze in the 2019 Asian championship). There I did Tsukahara 720-degree, whereas in Singapore (in May last) I did 360-degree. I have started doing 720 again. The difference between me and other top Asian athletes is not much. Had I done 720, then I would have got a medal in Singapore as well. But I was not fully fit; 720 is a difficult vault. You need four to five months of training to master it. I did not have the confidence to do 720. In two and a half months, I can do 720 and can reach my peak," said Pranati with a lot of positivity.

THE GIST

- Pranati, who competed in the Tokyo Olympics, is excited at the prospect of Indian women giving fine performances in big events
- The 28-year-old, who battled injuries in recently before shifting her training base to the newly-built Gymnastics High Performance Centre at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, said her primary target is to get fully fit
- Pranati availed the option of sticking to her Asian championships scores for the Asiad selection instead of going through the trials

You need the trifecta — athleticism, mentality and technique — to win the World Cup: Ellis

Neeladri Bhattacharjee

Jill Ellis has played multiple roles in soccer – she is an ambassador of the sport for the United States of America's soccer federation, president of the National Women's Soccer League (NWSL) side San Diego FC and the lead advisor to FIFA on the future of women's soccer.

But the most significant stint has been winning consecutive FIFA Women's World Cups with the United States Women's National Team (USWNT) as head coach, in 2015 and 2019.

She is only the second coach in football to do so after Vittorio Pozzo who did it with the Italian men's team, in 1934 and 1938. Ellis, however, did not begin her career as a coach. After an undergraduate degree in English Literature from William and Mary and a Master's degree in technical writing from North Carolina State, she was working with a telecom company.

In 1994, she became an assistant football coach in Maryland, leaving her mother 'horrified'. From college football, she moved into the US women's national side in 2000, finally becoming the head coach in 2014.

Jill Ellis... the coach with the Midas touch. GETTY IMAGES

"I was very fortunate because I got to be Pia Sundhage's assistant, I got to see up close and personal, the inner workings, the expectation and the intensity of that environment. When I took over, I wasn't really blind. I had a clear vision of what was needed to win another World Cup. It starts and stops you – you got to have talent, good preparation and good staff," says Ellis.

Sundhage has been one of the greatest women's football coaches, winning two Olympic gold medals with the USWNT and the Copa America Femenina with Brazil last year.

As the United States team struggled for form after the exit of Sundhage and Tom Sermanni in 2014, Ellis did not just stabilise the ship but also steered it to World Cup triumph within three months of taking charge as a full-time head coach.

Ellis' 2019 World Cup squad had 11 players making their debut in the tournament in the 23-women group.

"You've to strike a balance between youth and experience and I think we did that. That was a big part of the success," says Ellis.

April Heinrichs, captain of USWNT which won its maiden World Cup in 1991, had once said that Ellis is a coach who "can put an arm around a player and make a tight situation relaxed." Ellis proved true to that reputation by successfully defending the World Cup.

"It's two-fold – mentality and mental health. I've always said that to win the World Cup, you got to have the trifecta – athleticism, mentality and technique. I think the USA has that in abundance," she says.

"I think part of (being) a coach is, ultimately when they go into that pressure cooker of a final, you've got to make them feel that they are prepared. That gives them immense confidence that they're invincible."

(The FIFA Women's World Cup 2023 kicks off in New Zealand and Australia on July 20).

SCALING HEIGHTS

Rock climbing is one of the oldest sports in the world. Paintings dating as far back as 200BC show men climbing rocks. It has come a long way since, of course, and the sport itself has branched out to several different disciplines. Bouldering, a type of free climbing, is performed over either natural rock formations or climbing walls. It tests the sportsmen hard, involving mental and physical strength, agility, stamina and body control.
The 2023 IFSC Climbing World Cup is being held in 12 locations, between April and September, and has 18 events. GETTY IMAGES

Terror module created in Bengaluru Central Prison

The suspects were radicalised by the accused in the 2008 serial bomb blasts

Imran Gowhar
BENGALURU

The five persons suspected to be part of a terror module, that was unearthed by the Central Crime Branch (CCB) on Wednesday, were radicalised by LeT operative T. Nazir arrested in connection with the 2008 serial bomb blasts in Bengaluru in the Central Prison at Parappana Agrahara in Bengaluru, according to police sources.

The suspects – Syed Suhel Khan, 24, Mohammed Umar, 29, Zahid Tabarej, 25, Syed Mudaseer Pasha, 28, and Mohammed Fazil, 30 – were mechanics and drivers. They were arrested by R.T. Nagar police in 2017 in connection with the kidnap and murder of a businessman, Noor Ahmed, along with the prime accused Junaid Ahmed.

Twenty-one persons were arrested in the murder case. From among them, Nazir and Junaid selected five, and created a terror module during their 18-month incarceration.

According to the police, the suspects had planned to carry out blasts in four places in Bengaluru. Based on intel inputs, the CCB arrested them from a house in Hebbal police station limits. The suspects had been staying in a rented house for the last three months. They had roped in two women to stay with them to avoid arousing suspicion in the neighbourhood. The CCB questioned the women, and ruled out their involvement in suspected terror activities.

Police personnel outside the house from where five suspected terrorists were arrested, in Bengaluru, on Wednesday. The accused had been staying in the rented house for the last three months. SUDHAKARA JAIN

"The accused have been taken into 15 days' police custody. Efforts are on to track down the persons who provided logistics support to the accused," B. Dayananda, Bengaluru police commissioner, said.

Prime accused hiding abroad

According to the police, Junaid Ahmed, the prime accused, is a habitual offender. He is named in many cases, including for murder (2017), robbery and smuggling of Red Sanders.

He was arrested in 2020 in a Red Sanders smuggling case. He was sent to Bengaluru Central prison at Parappana Agrahara, where he met Nazir again. After five months in prison, he secured bail and went abroad in 2021, but was in regular touch with the other accused, according to the police.

He was acting as the handler of the module. He provided logistics support, including weapons and financial aid, through his contacts.

"Prime accused Junaid is named in multiple cases and is in hiding out of India. He hatched a plan to carry out subversive activities, and supplied arms and ammunition for the job," Mr. Dayananda said.

On the day of the arrests, curious residents thronged the house of Suhel Khan. Suhel reportedly checked into the rented house 40 days ago. The owner of the house, identified as Padma, expressed shocked over the development. Suhel had checked into the house with family and was working as a fabricator.

Meanwhile, the CCB officials have also questioning Nazir to know his links with other inmates and people outside the prison. CCB officials suspected that Nazir could have created similar modules and radicalised many who came into his contact during his stay in the central prison.

Gruha Jyothi: Consumers confused over implementation of scheme as bills count consumption in July

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Although the State government had announced that Gruha Jyothi scheme will be applicable to all eligible consumers from July 1, the issuing of bills by Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (Bescom) which includes days of July also into the billing period of June, has attracted the ire of consumers. While the scheme was inaugurated on July 1, it was announced that the benefits of the same would be reflected in the bills of August.

Speaking to *The Hindu* a few weeks ago, Mahantesh Bilagi, Managing Director, Bescom, had said that after delayed billing in June (for the month of May), the billing cycle in July will only consider 25 days of consumption. The consumers have now pointed out that they have not only received bills where they are charged for their consumption in July, but their bills are also higher than usual.

Consumers have now pointed out that they have not only received bills where they are charged for their consumption in July, but their bills are also higher than usual. FILE PHOTO

"My electricity consumption had not crossed 200 units ever, not even during the lockdown times when my family and I stayed home every day. But somehow in this month's bill, my consumption is showed as 240 units suddenly. The bill amount is higher by almost 50% of my previous month's bill. Let alone free power, they should at least not overcharge us," said Vijeth S., who lives near Kanakapura Road.

While some have not paid their bills yet and are waiting for some clarification around the implementation of Gruha Jyothi, some others who have automated payment systems are concerned whether they will be refunded their money if they are covered under the scheme. "We have ECS payment system for our bills and under it, the payment has already been deducted for our power bill. Our billing cycle was from June 8 to July 8. Will they provide us a refund now," asked Namratha, a resident of Malleshpalya.

Even the officials of Bescom did not have much clarity about what steps could be taken next. "We have conducted our billing as usual according to the rules given out by KERC. For now, we have submitted a proposal to the Energy Minister about our plan. We are expecting an order or a clarification shortly," a source in Bescom said.

Kannada teaching row: School served notice

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Kannada Development Authority (KDA) has served a notice to the management of Sophia High School, Bengaluru, seeking an explanation over allegations of plans to drop Kannada as the second language from eighth grade onwards.

In the notice sent on Tuesday, Santosh Hanagalla, Secretary, KDA, said: "A group of 50 parents have allegedly approached the school to drop Kannada as a subject. Screenshots of the chats were circulated on social media and news was published across various media in this regard. According to the Kannada Language Learning Act-2015, teaching Kannada as a first or second language is compulsory in all schools across the State. The Kannada Language Comprehensive Development Act 2022 has also upheld the same. Therefore, the KDA has considered this issue seriously and the management should give a detailed report within three days of the notice." Mr. Hanagalla said, "This is a very sensitive issue. Therefore, we served notice to the school management. After a detailed explanation and clarification from the school, we will submit the report to the State government for further action."

Kannada and Culture Minister Shivaraj S. Tangadagi has also written to Madhu Bangarappa, Minister for the Department of School Education and Literacy to initiate action against the school management.

Come out with proposal to solve shortage of space in High Court, Bench directs govt.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Pointing out that there is an acute shortage of space for its effective functioning, the High Court of Karnataka on Wednesday directed the State government to come out with a comprehensive proposal to provide adequate additional space for the offices, court halls, chambers of judges, public amenities and parking for the High Court.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Prasanna B. Varale and Justice M.G.S. Kamal issued the directions while hearing a two PIL petitions filed in 2019 for shifting the offices situated in the basement floor of the High Court building and for providing additional space for the HC.

More petitions

"It is not in dispute that in view of the factors such as rise in filling of the petitions, the appointment of more number of judges, etc., there is hardly any scope for this court to house the court halls, chambers for the judges, and to provide adequate space for basic amenities and utilities," the Bench observed.

Earlier, Chief Justice Varale orally told the Additional Advocate General Pratima Honnapur that chambers for newly-appointed judges were provided in congested locations within the building and there is acute shortage of space even to increase the number of court halls as and when new judges are appointed based on the sanctioned strength of the High Court.

For basic facilities

There is also no scope or space to provide basic facilities to advocates to interact with the litigants and other amenities, the Chief Justice said, while pointing out that even the number of toilets cannot be increased even though the footfall to the court building is on the rise. The Bench also pointed out that the resolution passed in the Full Court meeting of the High Court way back in November, 2019, had pointed out requirement of a minimum of 2.2 lakh sq.ft of additional space. The Bench also said that certain branches of the court that still function from the basement floor cannot be shifted to any far away buildings as these branches are engaged in maintaining and delivering files and petitions to the court halls.

"We hope and trust that the State government, by considering all these aspects, would come out with appropriate and proper proposals," the Bench observed while adjourning further hearing for three weeks.

The then government, in 2021, had provided some additional space for the offices of the High Court in the nearby government buildings like in the building of the Department of Technical Education.

Entries invited for national awards from journalists, photojournalists

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Press Council of India has invited entries from all journalists, freelancers, photojournalists of Indian nationality for national awards in the following categories: Rural Journalism, Developmental reporting, Photojournalism - single news picture and photo feature - best newspaper art; cartoons, caricatures and illustrations; Sports reporting, sports photo feature, financial reporting, gender issue reporting and reporting from conflict areas.

All entries addressed to the Secretary, Press Council of India, Soochna Bhawan, 8-CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi - 110003, highlighting the category of awards nomination and marked confidential, should reach on or before 5 p.m. of August 18. Advance soft copies can be e-mailed at secy-pci@nic.in.

Further details in this regard can be obtained from www.presscouncil.nic.in.

Video: Murder accused booked

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A murder accused who is out on bail has now been booked for allegedly circulating implicating videos against the Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) at Konanakunte Police Station.

In reference to a complaint lodged by the Kumaraswamy Layout Traffic Inspector, the accused, Gopi, along with other accused who are yet to be identified, has been booked under the IPC's Section 341 (Punishment for wrongful restraint) and Section 353 (Assault or criminal force to deter public servant from discharge of his duty).

On July 14, when officers of the Kumaraswamy Layout Traffic police station were conducting a special campaign against drunk driving, Gopi and his companions lied that they were from the media and started filming officials who were performing a breathalyser test on a person who was driving a car with 69% alcohol levels. The police alleged that Gopi's gang blocked the car and started abusing traffic officials that they were not serving the same kind of justice to everyone. They also spoke against the car driver and tried to hit him

It has also been stated in the FIR that there were cases of murder and other offences against Gopi in Satanur police station of Ramanagaram. A police source said Gopi was one among those arrested with cow vigilante Puneeth Kerehalli in Rajasthan.

In a video which was going around on social media, it appeared as if the police officials had let Palanivelu go after he made a phone call. Responding to the allegations, Joint Commissioner (Traffic), Bengaluru, M. N. Anucheth said, "The accusations are false and baseless. The violator was booked for the drink and drive violation and his vehicle was seized as per extant rules."

City-based drone start-up deployed in Indonesia to explore critical minerals

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

City-based drone start-up Squadrone Infra and Mining Pvt. Ltd. has deployed drone-based geophysical surveys for prospecting and exploration of nickel, gold, bauxite, coal and other critical minerals at Indonesia's Kalimantan and Sulawesi Islands.

The startup has deployed MagArrow and Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) technologies, a UAV-enabled drone-based solution equipped with a non-radioactive laser-pumped cesium vapor total field scalar magnetometer.

This advanced system enables the mapping of shallow and deep-seated virgin mineral deposits, reaching depths of up to 1,000 to 1,500 m below ground level. Geologists, geophysicists, and researchers can now conduct comprehensive studies of the earth's strata for new and greenfield mineral discoveries in previously inaccessible areas, significantly enhancing efficiency and accuracy. The GPR adds great value to nickel, gold, bauxite and coal prospecting, with high precision.

Bengaluru-based drone start-up has introduced drone-based geophysical surveys with Magnetometers and Ground Penetrating Radars for mineral prospecting and exploration at Indonesia's Kalimantan and Sulawesi Islands. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Kalimantan Island, known for its unique and diverse ecosystems, poses significant challenges to traditional mining surveys due to its remote and difficult-to-access terrain. With the introduction of MagArrow and GPR, Squadrone offers a revolutionary solution that allows for geophysical surveying without adversely affecting the ecology of the region and minimising the need for human intervention. This technology marks a significant milestone in the field of mineral exploration in such environmentally sensitive areas.

Squadrone Infra and Mining with its expansion into Indonesia and plans to enter other regions of Southeast Asia and Africa, is set to contribute significantly to Net Zero operations and the sustainable development of the global mining industry.

Timings
BENGALURU

THURSDAY, JUL. 20	
RISE 06:02	SET 18:50
RISE 07:59	SET 20:53
FRIDAY, JUL. 21	
RISE 06:03	SET 18:49
RISE 08:46	SET 21:29
SATURDAY, JUL. 22	
RISE 06:03	SET 18:49
RISE 09:32	SET 22:04

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	32	25
Mysuru	32	22
Bengaluru	29	21

Bengaluru Today
29°C The weather will be mostly dry. Day will be slight warm and humid. Night will be pleasant.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
30°C A dry weather to prevail. Day will be slight warm but humid. Night will be pleasant.

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THE HINDU
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PUBLIC NOTICE

This notice is issued on behalf of my client **SRI.KARTHIK.M.S** to bring to the notice of the general public that the Original WILL dt.31.03.1999, Reg dt. 20.04.1999, registered as document No.314/1998-99 of Book - III, Volume-73, Pages 84-87 and registered in the office of the Sub-Registrar Jayanagar, Bangalore in respect of Site bearing New No.19, Old No.405, Situated at **43rd Cross, 8th Block, Jayanagar Extension, Bangalore,** measuring East to West 30 feet and North to South 50 feet, totally measuring **1500 Sq.ft.,** along with building, in WILL Page No.3 has been lost. All the persons are hereby informed not to deal or carry out any transaction with anyone on the basis of the above said deeds. If anyone has already carried out or being carried out kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within **7 days** from this present along with that Police Complaint is also given vide Lost Report No.0649598/2023, dated 19.07.2023.

Y. Sowmya Yadav, Advocate
Samvruddhi Legal, # 83, Ground Floor, 5th 'A' Cross, 21st Main, J.P. Nagar 2nd Phase, Bangalore-78. **M : 9916343921**

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

Tender No.93.23. 5594.
Open Due On 28-08-2023

Divisional Railway Manager (Stores) Southern Railway, Thiruvananthapuram Division invites E-tenders for the supply of under mentioned stores for and on behalf of the President of India.

Description : Supply installation, testing & commissioning of By-pass arrangement in Power Car for extending supply to RA/OMS coaches at non-vestibule ends as per RDSO Letter No. EL/1.6.9.22/HOG Main dt.29.04.19 and ICF Schematic Diagram No. LWLRRM-7-0- 010 for Power and control circuit - SBC-S2 (for LHB AC Power car with HOG complaints Drg.). Supplier shall furnish necessary proof from OEM or Authorised dealer of OEM for the originality of the supply item.

Quantity: 38 Set
Consignee: SSE/E/AC/TVC
Due date: 28-08-2023
Tender closing and opening date and time: 28-08-2023 at 14.30 Hrs.

For further details, please refer to web portal **www.ireps.gov.in >E-Tender> Stores>View tenders.** Please note that only online tenders are accepted and tenders are to be digitally signed.

Follow us on : twitter.com/GMSRailways

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client has filed O.S. No. 25593 of 2008 challenging the Will dated 10.06.1999 and 30.03.1993 and for partition and separate possession and is hereby calling upon the attestators of the Will being **(1) Sri. Adishesh,** Advocate - Advocates Association, District Court Complex, Tumkuru, **(2) Sri. B. Seetharamaiah,** S/o Balaiah, Rangadhama, Devanur Road, Tumkuru, **(3) Sri. B.L. Ravindra,** No. 86, I Block, R.T. Nagar, Bengaluru-560 032. **(4) Sri. H.S. Lingaraj,** No. 250, Himanshu, 3rd Main Road, Mahalakshmi Layout, Bengaluru- 560 086 and **Sri. D. Nagaraj,** Advocate - Advocates Association, District Court Complex, Tumkuru, to appear before the XXVIII Additional City Civil and Sessions Judge, Mayo Hall, Bengaluru (CCCH No.29) on **05.08.2023** at 11:00 am.

SREEVATSA ASSOCIATES, Advocates
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Bengaluru-560038.
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Human male reproduction: more egalitarian by mammal standards?

A detailed study about human uniqueness in just one trait has been published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, jointly by 105 scientists. They focused on reproductive success and on the differences between males and females in the inequality in reproductive success

Raghavendra Gadagkar

Human uniqueness, or the lack thereof, can only be understood by first considering our mammalian ancestry. UNSPLASH

We have two contradictory expectations about human biology and behaviour. Given our primate and mammalian ancestry, we must be pretty similar to chimps, monkeys, and even rats. But given our big brains, superior intelligence, language, and above all, our ability to make culture and abide by it, we must be quite different. As is often the case, the truth is probably somewhere in between. But that's not good enough for anthropologists and evolutionary biologists. We want to know for sure and also exactly where in between.

'A spectacularly detailed study'

Our task is mind-bogglingly complex, given the staggering variation among the 500 primate and 6,500 mammal species and the equally daunting variability among the thousands of human tribes and cultures. To make any headway, we must pick one biological or behavioural trait at a time and study it in large numbers of mammalian species and many human cultures. This is by no means a job for a single scientist.

Indeed, a spectacularly detailed study about human uniqueness, or the lack thereof, in just one trait, has been published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, U.S., jointly by 105 authors from 70 institutions located in 15 countries (India is missing from this list), led by Cody T. Ross of the Max-Planck-Gesellschaft in Leipzig, Germany.

Dr. Ross and his colleagues focused on reproductive success, defined as the number of surviving offspring - arguably the most important trait in Darwinian terms. They did not use reproductive success averaged over societies, species, populations, or families. Instead, they used data on the reproductive success of 80,223 individuals drawn from 90 human societies and 49 free-ranging non-human mammal species. They were not interested in reproductive success *per se* but in the inequality in reproductive success among individuals.

More precisely, they were interested in the differences between males and females in the inequality in reproductive success. This needs some explanation.

What is sexual selection?

In addition to proposing the theory of natural selection, Charles Darwin also proposed the theory of sexual selection. He argued that individuals good at surviving might not necessarily be good at obtaining the highest quantity and quality of mates for reproduction. Sometimes, the best traits for obtaining mates may be detrimental to survival (think of the peacock), hence the need for a separate theory.

The most significant advance since Darwin in the theory of sexual selection is the idea that males and females pursue very different strategies to maximise their reproductive success. Males produce large quantities of inexpensive sperm and generally privilege quantity over quality, while females produce small numbers of expensive eggs and generally privilege quality over quantity. So the distribution of reproductive success among males is expected to be highly uneven: some males sire a large number of offspring while others very few or none at all. On the other hand, the distribution of reproductive success is expected to be somewhat more even among females.

Such theoretical expectations of differences in male and female mating strategies have often been much exaggerated and rightly criticised. Besides, there is a large body of literature - mostly ideas and opinions, with inadequate data - proclaiming that humans are unique in that the male-female differences in reproductive inequality are minimal, absent, or reversed. Hence the need for hard data, and that is what the new study provides.

How is inequality measured?

It turns out that inequality is as hard to measure as it is crucial to consider. Economists, for example, measure income or wealth inequality using the well-known Gini index. Insect sociobiologists like me have long been interested in measuring reproductive skew among female members of insect societies. There are dozens of statistical measures of skew whose popularity has changed with time, often calling into question the validity of previous research. Dr. Ross and colleagues have used their own newly minted, refined index, which they call M.

The point of this digression is to forewarn readers that M also may be superseded one day. Science, we must accept, is always a work in progress.

Are humans unique?

The central finding of Dr. Ross and co. is that humans show lower male reproductive skew and lower male-female differences in reproductive skew compared to non-human mammals and primates. However, humans are indeed embedded in the distribution of mammalian patterns of male reproductive skew as well as male-female differences in reproductive skew. To quote the authors:

"... human populations are by no means radical outliers in the mammalian class, clustering in a small range in the bivariate distribution of mammalian skew values—near average for female skew and moderately below average for male skew".

They also find that human skew values fall in a relatively narrow range compared to the wide variation in other mammalian values.

An examination of the admittedly limited variation in skew between the 90 human societies permits the authors to explore the reasons for the relatively low skew values and low male-female differences among humans. Since the topic of human exceptionalism is so appealing, multiple explanations have previously been offered by the practitioners of a wide variety of disciplines long before any good data were available to confirm such exceptionalism, let alone measure its extent. Speculation is easy, data are hard!

What does the study mean?

A remarkable aspect of the effort of Dr. Ross and colleagues is the use of sophisticated mathematical modelling, grounded in sound evolutionary theory, to convert the many available verbal and qualitative predictions into 14 more rigorous, quantitative predictions and put them to the test.

The existence of male reproductive skew and male-female difference is explained by the theory of sexual selection described above. It is the lower values of both in humans that need a special explanation. The most important explanation, of course, is the more frequent occurrence of monogamy in humans, which reduces opportunities for some males to have a disproportionately large number of offspring.

> Males produce large quantities of inexpensive sperm and generally privilege quantity over quality, while females produce small numbers of expensive eggs and generally privilege quality over quantity

Monogamy and humans?

This appears to be due to several uniquely human features. For example, human males need high levels of mutual cooperation to survive. A second reason is that human infants need more help from both parents and others, reminiscent of birds, where monogamy is far more common. An old saying, that it takes a whole village to raise a child, comes to mind. Finally, their cross-cultural comparisons emphasise the role of legal and social institutions that enforce monogamy in some human societies.

The results of this massive study are especially pleasing to the evolutionary biologist because they show that human uniqueness, or the lack thereof, can only be understood by first considering our mammalian ancestry and then adding those uniquely human features that fine-tune our biological traits to suit our environments.

Raghavendra Gadagkar is DST Year of Science Chair Professor at the Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru.

An illustration of *Repenomamus robustus*, a mammal, attacking the plant-eating dinosaur *Psittacosaurus lujiatunensis* moments before a volcanic debris flow buried them both, about 125 million years ago in China. REUTERS

Dramatic fossil shows mammal attacking dinosaur

Reuters

While there is little doubt that many a Mesozoic mammal became a meal for a dinosaur, it may come as a surprise to learn that some mammals also dined on dinos.

A dramatic fossil unearthed in northeastern China shows a badger-like mammal in the act of attacking a plant-eating dinosaur, mounting its prey and sinking its teeth into its victim's ribs about 125 million years ago, scientists said on July 18.

Dated to the Cretaceous Period, it shows the four-legged mammal, *Repenomamus robustus* - the size of a domestic cat - ferociously entangled with the beaked two-legged dinosaur *Psittacosaurus lujiatunensis*, as big as a medium-sized dog. The scientists suspect they were suddenly engulfed in a volcanic mudflow and buried alive.

Most mammals during the Mesozoic Era, the age of dinosaurs, were shrew-sized bit players in the larger theater of life, doing well to avoid becoming someone else's lunch

"Dinosaurs nearly always outsized their mammal contemporaries, so traditional belief has been that their interactions were unilateral - the bigger dinosaurs always ate the smaller mammals," said palaeobiologist Jordan Mallon of the Canadian Museum of Nature in Ottawa, who helped lead the study published in the journal Scientific Reports.

"Here, we have good evidence for a smaller mammal preying on a larger dinosaur, which is not something we would have guessed without this fossil," Mallon added.

Most mammals during the Mesozoic Era, the age of dinosaurs, were shrew-sized bit players in the larger theater of life, doing well to avoid becoming someone else's lunch. Repenomamus shows at least some mammals gave as good as they got.

"I think what's key here is that Mesozoic food webs were more complex than we had imagined," Mallon said.

The area in Liaoning Province where the virtually complete fossil was found is called the "Chinese Pompeii" owing to various fossils of animals buried in volcanic eruptions.

Examining the fossil was like a crime scene analysis. *Repenomamus* is perched atop the prone *Psittacosaurus*, gripping the jaw and hind leg while biting into the ribcage. *Repenomamus* measures 47 cm long. Psittacosaurus is 120 cm long. Both are thought to be not quite full adults.

"There have been specimens of carnivorous dinosaurs preying on plant-eating dinosaurs before, but there has never been an example of a mammal preying on a dinosaur," said Canadian Museum of Nature palaeontologist and study co-author Xiao-chun Wu.

It is rare to find fossils showing animals interacting. Another fossil found in the 1970s in Mongolia shows two dinosaurs, predator Velociraptor and plant-eater Protoceratops, fighting about 80 million years ago before being buried alive, perhaps in a collapsing sand dune.

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

The significance of sleep to an organism's health

Suresh Seshadri

QUESTION 1

What is the name of the branch of biology that relates to the study of biological rhythms, such as for instance migratory birds knowing when to commence their migration?

QUESTION 2

This branch of rhythms dictates how organisms respond to light and dark as well as the physiological changes that living beings undergo over a 24-hour period. What is it called?

QUESTION 3

The 2017 Nobel Prize in Medicine was won by a triumvirate of Americans for their work in discovering the mechanisms controlling the internal clocks that keep time in all living organisms, including humans.

The _____ ___ was the insect they chose to conduct their ground-breaking research on. Fill in the blank.

QUESTION 4

This hormone has both a soporific effect and an ability to entrain the sleep-wake rhythm.

Name this hormone that is used also to treat conditions like delayed sleep phase syndrome.

QUESTION 5

Sleep in humans occurs over two phases with one of these phases associated with dreams. What is the name of this phase?

Answers to July 18 quiz:

French-American mathematician who coined 'fractal' – **Ans: Benoit Mandelbrot**

City on Africa's west coast known for architecture with fractals – **Ans: Benin City**

Name of figure of a lightning strike in three dimensions – **Ans: Lichtenberg figure**

Indonesian dyeing technique that uses fractal patterns – **Ans: Batik**

Size and arrangement of trees in a forest related to arrangement of this – **Ans: Xylem**

Visual: **Mandelbrot set**

First contact: Utkarsh Verma | Himanshu Verma | P.N. Moorthy

Visual: Who is this man, considered the father of the branch of biology dealing with rhythms in living organisms? PUBLIC DOMAIN

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

Aspiration to Inspiration
ASPIRATIONAL DISTRICTS PROGRAMME

PICS: DISTRICT ADMINISTRATIONS, UP GOVT

A game-changer for UP

UP government is committed to raising living standards of its people and ensuring inclusive growth for all through the Aspirational Districts Programme

Organised efforts for social and economic improvement in the aspirational development blocks following the model of aspirational districts has yielded promising results in the state. The aspirational blocks scheme on the pattern of aspirational districts has proved to be a game-changer."

-Yogi Adityanath
Chief Minister

The Aspirational Districts Programme was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in January 2018, with the objective of expediting the transformation of 112 most backward districts across 28 states through the convergence of government programmes and schemes. The districts were chosen by senior officials of the Union government in consultation with states officials. With the states as the main drivers, this programme focuses on the strength of each district, identifying low-hanging fruits for immediate improvement and measuring progress by ranking the districts monthly. The ranking is based on the incremental progress made across 49 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) under five broad socio-economic themes. Broad strategy of the Aspirational Districts Programme includes:

- **Convergence** – between central and state schemes
- **Collaboration** – between central and state level 'prabhari' and district collectors
- **Competition** – among districts

Amongst the aspirational districts of other states, the aspirational districts in Uttar Pradesh have shown remarkable improvement. UNDP

India's appraisal report on the Aspirational Districts Programme released in June 2021 appreciated the delta rankings provided on the programme's Champions of Change dashboard. It mentions that the competitive and dynamic culture fostered by it has successfully pushed several low-performing districts (as per baseline rankings) to improve their standing in the past three years. Chandauli and Sonbhadra have progressed the most since the beginning of the programme. Furthermore, at least five districts of Uttar Pradesh made it to the list of top 10 best performing aspirational districts since the inception of Aspirational Districts Programme. These districts include Balrampur, Siddharthnagar, Sonbhadra, Fatehpur and Chandauli.

DISTRICTS IDENTIFIED BASED UPON COMPOSITE INDICATORS FROM THE FOLLOWING, WHICH HAVE AN IMPACT ON THE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX:

- **HEALTH & NUTRITION**
- **EDUCATION**
- **AGRICULTURE & WATER RESOURCES**
- **FINANCIAL INCLUSION & SKILL DEVELOPMENT**
- **BASIC INFRASTRUCTURE**

ASPIRING FOR A NEW UTTAR PRADESH

In June 2023, while addressing the inaugural session of G20 Development Ministers meeting, which took place at Varanasi, through a video message, PM Narendra Modi asked the G20 members to study India's 'Aspirational District' model of development. Following the vision of the Prime Minister, CM Yogi Adityanath and UP government is focused on building on the momentum and diligently mobilising assets towards the aspirational blocks scheme built on the pattern of aspirational districts. This is proving to be a game-changer. The PM has launched the government's Aspirational Block Programme (ABP), which is aimed at improving the performance of blocks lagging in various development parameters. The Aspirational Blocks Programme is on the lines of the Aspirational District Programme.

CM Yogi Adityanath is continuously reviewing the progress of works in 100 aspirational blocks in the state and has said that to ensure this, the state is capable and self-sufficient. The state needs to ascertain that its villages are improving on various development parameters. The CM has directed all departments to confirm that they have sufficient manpower in each block, and has asked his team to ensure efforts to expand health facilities in each aspirational block through Health ATMs. Also, officials have been asked to review the quality of social welfare and development works being undertaken in each block. Through the development works that are being carried out in these blocks, the state government will be able to ensure that the per capita income of the state also rises, and gram panchayats become aatmanirbhar.

Additionally, on the lines of aspirational districts, the state government is taking up works on 75 indicators across 100 blocks in the sectors of health and nutrition, education, agriculture and water resources, financial inclusion and skill development, and basic infrastructure development. Work is being rolled out through BC Sakhis, Gram Sachivalayas, etc.A dashboard has been created to monitor the progress in the aspirational districts. Monthly data of all aspirational blocks is uploaded here. The chief development officer has been appointed as the nodal officer for this work. Departments are holding workshops and training programmes in these blocks at regular intervals. Under the Chief Minister's Fellowship Programme in 100 aspirational municipal bodies, talented youths are being involved in development works.100 research scholars for one year will work under the supervision of DM and CDO for the development of aspirational municipal bodies and accelerate implementation of schemes besides ensuring quality of work. Tablets have been distributed by the CM to these selected research scholars.

We have made efforts to improve people's lives in more than a hundred Aspirational Districts, which were pockets of under-development. These Aspirational Districts have now emerged as the catalysts of growth in the country."

-Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

KGMU Satellite Centre, Balrampur

CHAMPIONS OF CHANGE

The Champions of Change (COC) Dashboard was developed by NITI Aayog to monitor district progress and aid in decision-making

Champions of Change (CoC) is the backbone of the Aspirational Districts Programme. The new CoC digital platform facilitates advanced data analytics, digitised project management workflow, and machine-learning capabilities. The programme fosters collaboration as a platform for sharing best practices and convergence as the various line ministries and respective state governments maximise input of various government schemes in the Aspirational Districts. The methodology to calculate delta rankings, the forms to feed data and to collate other data points are processed via a data dashboard. The COC dashboard is one of the Government of India's focused efforts to emphasise outcome-based monitoring of public service provision. Most of the selected indicators are outcome indicators. The data is used by the UP government to discuss challenges as well as best practices with concerned ministries, departments, and the district administrations to come up with practical solutions for on-the-ground problems.

SCALING NEW SUMMITS

BAHRAICH
Health & Nutrition: 74.2 (April, 2023)
Education: 53.3 (April, 2023)
Agriculture & Water Resources: 29.7 (April, 2023)
Financial Inclusion & Skill Development: 39.9 (April, 2023)
Basic Infrastructure: 75.8 (April, 2023)

BALRAMPUR
Health & Nutrition: 78.6 (April, 2023)
Education: 70.7 (April, 2023)
Agriculture & Water Resources: 17.9 (April, 2023)
Financial Inclusion & Skill Development: 31.3 (April, 2023)
Basic Infrastructure: 80.6 (April, 2023)

CHANDAULI
Health & Nutrition: 86.2 (April, 2023)
Education: 61.7 (April, 2023)
Agriculture & Water Resources: 28.5 (April, 2023)
Financial Inclusion & Skill Development: 29.6 (April, 2023)
Basic Infrastructure: 69.4 (April, 2023

CHITRAKOOT
Health & Nutirtion: 69.4 (April, 2023)
Education: 70.4 (April, 2023)
Agriculture & Water Resources: 12.2 (April, 2023)
Financial Inclusion & Skill Development: 27.5 (April, 2023)
Basic Infrastructure: 74.5 (April, 2023)

FATEHPUR
Health & Nutirtion: 72 (April, 2023)
Education: 62.9 (April, 2023)
Agriculture & Water Resources: 27.4 (April, 2023)
Financial Inclusion & Skill Development: 29 (April, 2023)
Basic Infrastructure: 79.3 (April, 2023)

SHRAVASTI
Health & Nutrition: 75.9 (April, 2023)
Education: 54.7 (April, 2023)
Agriculture & Water Resources: 13.6 (April, 2023)
Financial Inclusion & Skill Development: 30.1 (April, 2023)
Basic Infrastructure: 81.3 (April, 2023)

SIDDHARTHNAGAR
Health & Nutrition: 73.7 (April, 2023)
Education: 54.7 (April, 2023)
Agriculture & Water Resources: 30 (April, 2023)
Financial Inclusion & Skill Development: 25.1 (April, 2023)
Basic Infrastructure: 83.2 (April, 2023)

SONBHADRA
Health & Nutrition: 68.7 (April, 2023)
Education: 64.5 (April, 2023)
Agriculture & Water Resources: 32.3 (April, 2023)
Financial Inclusion & Skill Development: 24.9 (April, 2023)
Basic Infrastructure: 78.2 (April, 2023)

FROM THE DISTRICTS

"Balrampur has made significant improvement in education, health, nutrition etc. Since 2018, Balrampur has earned a grant of Rs 22 crore as performance grant by NITI Aayog including the TabLab project. Schools are being transformed with smart classes, infrastructure renovation of schools are going on through Kayakalp initiatives and anganwadis are also scaled up in terms of SAM MAM improvement in association with NGOs. More than 10,000 SHGs are functioning in the district carrying out various economic activities like weaving, animal rearing, poultry farming, bee rearing, tribal painting, handicraft products, plant nursery, sweet making, etc. Immunisation coverage, institutional delivery, percentage of women receiving ante-natal care, reduction in percentage of low birth-weight babies, percentage of underweight children under 6 years, tuberculosis treatment etc, have made significant improvements here.

Balrampur apart from being an aspirational district, it is also regularly flood affected. In order to rehabilitate 66 families in flood affected areas, an urban housing colony was developed in Kalyanpur Village with facilities like drainage, roads, boundary wall, NREGA park with child-friendly playing equipment, street lights, community shed for social and economic activities, each family has CM AWAS, with toilet, tap water connection, etc. Project cost is Rs 3.5 crores through the convergence of various schemes."

-Arvind Singh, DM, Balrampur

"Under the aspirational district programme, the progress of Siddharth Nagar district has been strengthened. At present, out of 49 indicators set by the NITI Aayog, the district has been saturated in 18 indicators by March, 2023 and the remaining indicators will also be saturated soon. Got second position in overall progress in the Aspirational District Programme. Under Niti Aayog, the district has seen:

- Establishment of 14 model schools
- 14 Model Anganwadi Centres operational
- 11 Computer lab and coding education at Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya functional
- Establishment of Health AHM at Health Centre, at Bansi
- 20-bed PICU and 10 bed maternity at Community Health Centre Bewa
- Construction of wards
- Repair of Ambedkar Auditorium undertaken
- Digital District Library established

- Sanjeev Ranjan, DM, Siddharthnagar

"Chandauli was selected as an Aspirational district among 112 Aspirational districts of country by NITI Aayog in 2018. Since then, Chandauli has improved in nearly all indicators set by Niti Aayog. But in some indicators the district has performed significantly well. Chandauli's ANC registration in the first trimester reached 95.53 % from 65.59% in 2018. Institutional deliveries have increased to 90.02 from 47.43 in 2018. All primary and upper primary schools have functional girls' toilet and drinking water. So far, the district has distributed 3,47,500 soil health cards since 2018. Chandauli was awarded the PM AWARDS in 2021 under Innovation for the Idea of cultivation of 'Black Rice', which is a high-sell and low-cost rate rice variety. Cultivation of "Black rice" is more profitable for cultivators than other general rice. The district also received a good ranking and position among 112 aspirational districts in delta ranking of Niti Aayog. Due to good performance in delta ranking District Chandauli granted extra money for development from Niti Aayog."

-Nikhil T Funde, DM, Chandauli

"Chitrakoot recently won the Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration for holistic development of school infrastructure, which has led to an increase in admissions and retention of students as well as learning outcomes. Three out of nine schools won the Uttar Pradesh Swacch Vidyalaya Puruskar, 2022. 41 libraries at the gram panchayat level have been developed to provide a healthy learning atmosphere for rural students. Other significant achievements include Kayakalp of public schools, development of tourism infrastructure and facilities, and successful implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission.

Rejuvenation of Barua Nala across 8 gram panchayats of Karvi block is an ongoing project, which will not only raise groundwater levels in the surrounding villages but also enhance irrigation facilities for agricultural purposes. Several works aimed at harnessing tourism potential of the district have been taken up. These works include development works at Kamadgiri Parikrama Marg, Lakshman Pahadi, Tulsi Smarak (Rajapur), Sitapur, Dashrath Ghat, Valmiki Ashram (Lalapur), Rahi Tourist Bungalow, Ranipur Tiger Reserve, Shiv Temple in Char and Tulsi Peeth."

-Abhishek Anand, DM, Chitrakoot

Building one district at a time

For transforming the districts, the programme focuses on convergence of central and state schemes, with collaboration among districts, development partners and citizens

The eight aspirational districts of Uttar Pradesh are Balrampur, Bahraich, Chandauli, Chitrakoot, Fatehpur, Shravasti, Sonbhadra and Siddharthnagar. With focus on better public amenities in healthcrae, education, infrastructure, financial inclusion and skill development, the state government is working hard to improve the living index for the people in these regions

Under the 'Aspirational Districts' programme UP's 8 districts have shown remarkable progress across key sectors that matter to the people. The core strength of the programme has enabled the UP government to focus on data driven governance, driving evidence-based policy interventions at the district-level. Initiatives undertaken, were designed in a way that the input and process indicators are evaluated to achieve desirable outputs and outcomes across major socio-economic themes such as health and nutrition, education, agriculture and water resources, financial inclusion and skill development, and basic infrastructure. With a robust monitoring strategy, UP has enabled the district administration to engage in cross-departmental reviews and thus driving the desired convergence of visions and goals. The competition through the monthly release of delta ranks keeps the districts constantly motivated to improve. Under Health and Nutrition, the said districts have shown good progress in indicators related to pregnant women's health and child nutrition. Indicators such as antenatal care registrations, child immunisation, and provision of supplementary nutrition have shown major improvements. School infrastructure and basic infrastructure indicators such as sanitation and electrification are nearing saturation.

The programme continues to deliver results because it has succeeded in synergising the efforts of all stakeholders— central and state governments, district administration, non-governmental organisations, private partners, civil society, and the masses.

ADVERTISEMENT

About 90% households in Bengaluru let rainwater go down the drain, despite law

As per the law, it is mandatory for all constructions on sites measuring 60x40 feet in the city, including those built prior to 2009, to have rainwater harvesting systems in place

Yemen S.
BENGALURU

Monsoon is here and expected to gain momentum in the coming days, but are households in Bengaluru letting it all go down the drain or making the effort to harvest rainwater?

According to data by the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Boards (BWSSB), Bengalurians are not harvesting water to their potential, with many properties yet to set up rainwater harvesting (RWH) systems. According to data provided by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), as of July 2019, Bengaluru has 19 lakh housing properties; however, so far, only 1,88,433 properties (about 10%) have RWH systems, and the BWSSB has collected a fine of ₹1.96 crore from violators who are yet to install the systems on their properties.

According to data by the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board, Bengalureans are not harvesting water to their potential.

An old law not enforced

It was way back in 2009 that the BWSSB made it mandatory for new constructions on a site measuring 30x40 feet to either recharge rainwater or store it in a sump or tank. In 2021, the BWSSB passed the Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage (Amendment) Act, 2021, and made it mandatory for all constructions on sites measuring 60x40 feet, including those built prior to 2009, to have RWH systems in place. However, to this day, many homes and properties in Bengaluru still lack RWH systems.

"We have popularised RWH in many areas across the city and have made it mandatory for new properties bigger than 30x40 feet to install rainwater harvesting systems. We are educating property owners to reuse rainwater and recharge the groundwater," says N. Jayaram, Chairman, BWSSB.

Residents who have been harvesting rainwater are a happy lot. Speaking to *The Hindu*, Sushma Rao, a resident of Uttarahalli, says, "We have had the RWH system ever since our house was built and have never been short on water supply though many parts of the area have faced a shortage of water for many years now. However, harvesting rainwater is not the only form of sustainability; at our home, we reuse water and waste from the kitchen to water our plants and make our own compost."

Umashankar S.D., a resident of J.P. Nagar 8th Phase, says neighbours who do not have RWH systems are suffering from a shortage of water supply. "Since it is mandatory to have RWH systems at properties when we bought this house, we made sure the property came with the unit. Cauvery water is supplied just thrice a week in our area, which again is not guaranteed. Since we moved here, we have never faced a shortage of water as we have an RWH well that is 20 ft deep. It stores enough water for many months. However, we have heard complaints of shortage of water from our neighbouring residences as most of them do not have RWH systems, and their borewells are also drying up. Despite having borewells, they are dependent on water tankers."

A model of rainwater harvesting at Sir M. Visvesvaraya Rainwater Harvesting Theme Park in Bengaluru. YEMEN S.

Integrated metering

Activists believe that the civil agency should do more to ensure RWH units are installed in all households. Sandeep Anirudhan, Convenor, Citizens' Agenda for Bengaluru and Coalition for Water Security, says most RWH units are not operational, and the BWSSB must have an integrated metering for every property.

"RWH is mandated under various laws, and a building cannot legally obtain BWSSB water/sewage connection nor an occupation certificate unless they implement RWH. Most small, medium, and even large buildings that are cropping up in Bengaluru do not have official building plan approvals, do not obtain occupation certificates and are unauthorised. Despite this, they obtain water and electricity connections. In this state of pervasive lawlessness that Bengaluru is drowning in, who will even bother to enforce RWH?"

"Even in the authorised apartments and large buildings, the RWH is only installed due to the mandate of law, but they generally are not maintained or kept operational. What we require is an integrated metering for every property that measures the rainwater collected, the borewell water drawn, and the BWSSB water supply provided, and incentivises good behaviour by reductions in bill based on the RWH collected," Mr. Anirudhan argues.

More demand ?

On the brighter side, at least some companies that set up rainwater harvesting systems say that demand for installations has gone higher this year.

For instance, Sunil Mysore, the founder of Hinren Engineering, based in J.P. Nagar, says, "Every monsoon, there is a peak right from the first rain of the year.

This year the demand has been slightly more than usual. Usually, from the months of May to August, every week, we would get 4-5 requests per week. This year we are getting around 7-8 requests every week."

Talking about how much rainwater can be saved, Mr. Mysore says, "In a city like Bengaluru that has an average precipitation of 975 millimetres, 1 square foot of a roof area can easily harvest about 80 litres of water in a few showers. If a property is 100 square feet wide, one will be able to save 80,000 litres of rainwater on average in a year."

"At apartments that are widely spread and have a rooftop of 1,000 square feet, they will easily save 8 lakh litres of water per year. The bigger the catchment or the rooftop, the more rainwater can be harvested."

A theme park for water harvesting

The park at Jayanagar has 26 types of rainwater harvesting models demonstrated

The BWSSB set up the Visvesvaraya Rainwater Harvesting Theme Park in 2011 at 5th Block, Jayanagar, to create awareness on the importance of rainwater harvesting.

The park caters to educating schools and colleges, and for those who would want to install rainwater harvesting systems at their properties. The park has 26 different types of rainwater harvesting models demonstrated, along with installations that speak about water conservation inside and outside the main building. The park also has an auditorium set up with a green air conditioning system, that is regularly used to showcase short films and videos on the importance of Rain Water Harvesting to students and the public.

Technical training is imparted to plumbers, contractors, and others for execution of rainwater harvesting methods in a scientific manner and also through a practical demonstration. According to the BWSSB, more than 1,000 people have been trained in 46 training sessions at the park. According to Asra Bhanu, the AEE in charge of the park, as on July 18, the park has had 56,626 visitors, that includes 31,041 school students and 8,439 college goers.

The Cauvery Water Supply Scheme

There is largescale decline in the groundwater levels and the quality of the water is also deteriorating

Since Bengaluru does not have a perennial source of water, the BWSSB conceived the Cauvery Water Supply Scheme (CWSS) and implemented the scheme's first stage in 1972. Three more stages of schemes were implemented in 1982, 1992, and 2002. Meanwhile, in the 2019 State Budget, a scheme called 'Mathondu Cauvery' was announced that envisaged reducing Bengaluru's dependence on Cauvery by harnessing the available water resources to flow into the Arkavati and Dakshina Pinakini rivers. For this, a comprehensive programme had been drawn up, which included rejuvenation of all water bodies in the catchment area and purifying wastewater. However, this never took off.

Though considerable water is extracted from ground water resources to supplement the drinking water needs in the city, it is observed that there is large scale decline in the ground water levels and the quality of the water is also deteriorating. Bengaluru is largely dependent on the river Cauvery.

"Whether Bengaluru receives good rains or not, be it summer or monsoon, with the current infrastructure and instructions by the irrigation department, we are currently allowed to pump only 1,450 MLD of water," said Mr. N. Jayram, Chairman, BWSSB.

Antharanga to stage two Kailasam plays this Saturday

A play of Kailasam.

Yemen S.
BENGALURU

'Home Rule' is a humorous play that revolves around a hapless husband

Team Antharanga, a Kannada theatre troupe founded by theatre artist Uncle Shyam, will be presenting "Home Rule" and "Kailasam Jhalak" at Dr. C. Ashwath Kala Bhavana, N.R. Colony, on Saturday at 7.15 p.m.

The first play is by T.P. Kailasam, who wrote Kannada plays in pre-Independent India. Both plays are directed by Y.V. Gundu Rao. "Home Rule" is a humorous play that revolves around a hapless husband sandwiched between a dominant wife and a nagging mother. Kailasam Jhalak, is a drama revolving around the life of the celebrated writer.

The play is open to audiences of all ages. The tickets for the show are priced at ₹150 and are available at the box-office and on BookMyShow.

Data jam analyses BBMP budgets, work orders and other public data

Urban designers, GIS experts, policy enthusiasts came together to analyse available data

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

OpenCity.in, an urban data platform by Oorvani Foundation, along with Janaagraha and Ward Samithi Balaga, conducted a 'data jam' to analyse data on BBMP's finances and work orders.

Citizens from varied backgrounds including urban designers, GIS experts, journalists and policy enthusiasts among others came together to analyse available data sets such as work orders and budget books from BBMP. The participants were divided into four groups.

Cess and surcharge

Team-1 which looked at cess and surcharges found that cess was 45.73 per cent of the property tax collected in 2022-23. However, it was unclear whether the cess included arrears or was from a single year.

Noting that the data on cess collection and utilisation was scant, they urged the municipal body to provide clear and latest data on the same.

Analysis based on 2017 data showed that localities like Chickpet and Shivajinagar were doing poorly in waste segregation.

The second team, which looked at Solid Waste Management (SWM,) contextualised the BBMP budget for SWM, summarised the municipal body's monitoring efforts in numbers, and looked at the state of SWM in the city.

Using secondary data, they identified that segregation of waste was a major pressure point for Solid Waste Management.

Waste segregation

Analysis based on 2017 data showed that localities like Chickpet and Shivajinagar were doing poorly in waste segregation.

Dry Waste Collection Centres (DWCC) were unevenly distributed across the city, 23 of 198 wards had no DWCCs and expenditure was uneven. The team also highlighted failed endeavours such as 'Kasa Kiosks.'

Team-3 took up the analysis of safety and surveillance, and attempted to understand the correlation between road accidents, street lighting and CCTV surveillance. Based on data from 2022, they found that peripheral areas of the city had more accidents and accident-prone roads.

Interestingly, BBMP work orders show that more funds are being allocated for street lights in the accident-prone peripheral areas in the northeast part of the city. Similarly spending for CCTV cameras is currently focused on peripheral areas.

The last team looked at the spatial correlation between the presence of potholes and accidents. While it was found that BBMP was spending between ₹4-25 crore on pothole management, it had no data on potholes across the city.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JULY 20, 1973

Extended Use of Kannada in Govt. from Aug. 15

Bangalore, July 19: The Mysore Government's decision to introduce Kannada as the language of administration at the district level from August 15, is considered a step forward in the realisation of the avowed object of making Kannada the official language of the State.

The State Government has ventured to extend the use of Kannada for administrative work after giving it a sufficient trial at the sub-divisional level.

Minister's Resignation Denied

Bangalore, July 19: The Chief Minister, Mr. D. Devraj Urs, to-day dismissed reports that one of his junior Ministers had resigned on prestige grounds, following the Public Works Minister's order deputing a vigilance squad to Hassan to enquire into allegations of serious irregularities in the Hassan Public Works division.

Replying to the questions by pressmen the Chief Minister said he did not think that the Hassan incident was a "bombshell" as was being suggested. Those found guilty, would pay for their lapses and there was no question of 'hushing it up, Mr. Urs said.

The Minister who is reported to have either resigned or threatened to resign is Mr. H. N. Nanje Gowda, Minister of State for Major Irrigation attached to the Chief Minister.

INBRIEF

Oppn. meet: Retired IAS officer seeks inquiry

Retired IAS officer M. Madan Gopal has written to the Cabinet Secretary and the Secretary, Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) of the Central government, on deputing 30 IAS officers for a political meeting and sought an appropriate inquiry into the matter. He said deputing IAS officers for political events was a clear violation of Rule 5(1) of IAS Conduct Rules.

In the letter, Mr. Gopal said, "Even if the State government declared those political leaders attending a political conference as State guests, it's beyond anyone's imagination how and why serving officers are directed to do protocol duties for a programme that is not any official programme but purely political."

Yatnal hospitalised

Senior BJP MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal, who complained of weakness during the BJP protest, was rushed to a nearby private hospital but later tweeted to say he was doing well. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Speaker U.T. Khader, and BJP veteran leader B.S. Yediyurappa visited him.

From Page One

Deputing IAS officers for political meet leads to chaos in both Houses

Legislative Assembly witnessed unruly scenes and sloganeering after BJP members tore papers and Bills and tossed them at Deputy Speaker Rudrappa Lamani who was in the Chair

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State Budget session proceedings in both the Legislative Assembly and Council were disrupted on Wednesday amid ruckus and protests by the Opposition over deputing 30 IAS officers to receive political leaders who attended a meeting of Opposition parties in Bengaluru held on July 17 and 18.

The House plunged into chaos with unruly scenes and sloganeering after BJP members tore the papers and Bills and tossed them at Deputy Speaker Rudrappa Lamani who was in the Chair. The unruly scenes occurred when BJP members were staging a dharna in the well of the House seeking an apology from the State government for deputing IAS officers as liaison officers for political leaders of other States during the second conclave of the Opposition parties.

The protest went out of control when Speaker U.T. Khader said there would be no adjournment of the House for lunch and members can have lunch whenever they wanted.

BJP members then intensified their protest and sloganeering. When Mr. Lamani occupied the chair and started conducting the proceedings, several BJP members began tearing papers and throwing them at the Chair.

Raising slogans: Opposition members protesting on the Vidhana Soudha premises in Bengaluru on Wednesday.

Earlier, as soon as the House met for the day, BJP members raised the issue of deputing IAS officers for the 'United We Stand' meeting. They said it was blatant misuse of government machinery for political purpose by the Congress government. Though Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil defended the government's decision to depute IAS officers for receiving Chief Ministers and Ministers of other States on the grounds of protocol, BJP members trooped into the well of the House in protest.

The Speaker adjourned the House for a few minutes and held a meeting with floor leaders to arrive at a consensus on the matter. When the House met again, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah defended deputing IAS officers and said the H.D. Kumaraswamy-led government in 2018 deputed the officers for inviting leaders from other States during the oath-taking ceremony. This angered JD (S) members and they too joined the protest.

As BJP members continued the protest and amid disruption, the Speaker allowed Home Minister G. Parameshwara and Mr. Siddaramaiah to make separate statements. Mr. Khader allowed five Bills to be passed amidst protest and chaos.

"There will not be a lunch break. The House will continue. Members will now speak on the Budget. Members who want lunch can eat and come back," Mr. Khader said, asking Mr. Lamani to conduct the proceedings. It was at this point that BJP members tore papers and tossed them at Mr. Lamani.

Marshalls were summoned to guard Mr. Lamani, but pieces of papers kept flying towards him. Mr. Lamani ordered the Marshalls to send the BJP MLAs out and said the behaviour of members was not as per the Parliamentary procedure. He was forced to adjourn the House again.

Later, BJP leaders submitted a notice to the Assembly Secretary seeking permission to move a no-confidence motion against the Speaker.

The Council too ended with pandemonium after Opposition members wanted to raise the IAS officers' issue. Deputy Speaker M.K. Pranesh did not permit it to be taken up as discussion on Budget was underway.

HDK joins protest

Terming the suspension of BJP legislators from the Assembly as a "murder of democracy," former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy on Wednesday accused Speaker U.T. Khader of deliberately suspending the BJP legislators at the behest of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

"The Speaker has played based on a direction from the Chief Minister. After having named their alliance as INDIA, they are trying to trample upon the Opposition parties," he said. The former Chief Minister, who sat on a protest with BJP leaders, said that protocols were violated by deploying IAS officers are liason officers.

BJP is indulging in 'goondaism' out of frustration: CM

IN THE LEGISLATURE

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Strongly defending the action of suspending 10 Bharatiya Janata Party MLAs from the Legislative Assembly on Wednesday, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said the party was indulging in "goondaism" because it was "jealous" of the Congress government walking the talk by taking measures to implement its poll promises.

"This is most uncivilised and goonda behaviour by the BJP members. They are doing this out of frustration.... People are happy with our guarantee programmes. Some women are even offering puja in my name at Dharmasthala. But only the Opposition is unhappy and jealous," the Chief Minister told the Assembly.

In a reference to the Deputy Speaker who became the target of BJP's attack being a Dalit, the Chief Minister said, "The BJP is anti-oppressed communities in its approach. They are also opposed to social justice besides being anti-poor. They do not believe in democracy and Constitution." He added, "They are indulging in such a behaviour to draw the attention of people in Keshava Krupa (RSS leaders)."

LoP appointment

Ridiculing the BJP for the delay in appointment of Leader of the Opposition, he said, "They are not even able to appoint Leader of the Opposition. Is it not being opposed to the democratic and constitutional values?"

> This is most uncivilised and goonda behaviour by the BJP members. They are doing this out of frustration... People are happy with our guarantee programmes. Some women are even offering puja in my name at Dharmasthala. But only the Opposition is unhappy and jealous.
>
> **SIDDARAMAIAH**
> Chief Minister

Referring to the BJP's allegations that IAS officers had been "reduced to clerks" by appointing them as liaison officers for leaders who attended the Opposition leaders' meeting in Bengaluru, he clarified that his government had not breached any protocol.

"We have gone by precedence. Earlier JD (S) leader H.D. Kumaraswamy had appointed an IAS officer to liaison with party leader Danish Ali during his swearing-in ceremony as Chief Minister in 2008. Similary, I myself had accepted the request by the then Union Minister Ananth Kumar to treat some of the guests attending the BJP's national executive in Bengaluru as State guests," he maintained.

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar said the BJP was indulging in some or other kind of drama everyday in the legislature to deviate public attention from the fact that they are yet to appoint a Leader of the Opposition.

10 BJP MLAs suspended for 'unruly behaviour'

BJP leader and former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai described this as a "murder of democracy" and alleged that the Speaker had become "a stooge in the hands of the government".

Speaker U.T. Khader, however, said it was very painful to announce the suspension of MLAs, but there was no option as he had "the responsibility of protecting the honour of the seat". He told the BJP members that he would have to take more stringent action if such a behaviour recurred.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah termed the behaviour of BJP members as an "act of goondaism". Senior Minister Krishna Byre Gowda, who rushed towards the Speaker's chair when the protesting members started throwing paper pieces at the Deputy Speaker, demanded that the BJP members should apologise to him.

"Just because the Deputy Speaker is a soft-hearted person and hails from an oppressed community, one cannot behave like this," he said.

Registration for Gruha Lakshmi launched

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah with Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and Minister for Women and Child Development Laxmi Hebbalkar at the launch of registration for Gruha Lakshmi scheme at the Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Wednesday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

"The Central government has the opportunity to provide this facility. If they take a bold step to give accord to the women's reservation Bill, we will extend our full support," he said.

Giving away sanction letters to three beneficiaries – Anandi Lingaiah, Suma S. Prabhakar, and Satya B. – symbolically, the Chief Minister said although the Opposition BJP was sceptical of the five guarantees, the Congress government had rolled out three guarantees within two months of coming to power. The DBT of ₹2,000 under the Gruha Lakshmi would from August 16, he said.

'Other States under pressure'

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar said implementation of this scheme in the State was pressuring other States to emulate Karnataka. "West Bengal and Tamil Nadu Chief Ministers who were here for the Opposition meet lauded the scheme and said they were under pressure now to start a similar programme in their States," he said.

Laxmi Hebbalkar, Minister of Women and Child Development, Welfare of Persons with Disabilities and Senior Citizens, said, "This is a meaningful programme to empower women. Significantly, we are launching the programme on the bank nationalisation day that is observed on July 19," she said.

Bill passed to punish officers who register sites with forged documents

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Legislative Assembly passed five Bills on Wednesday, including the Registration (Karnataka Amendment) Bill, 2023, that aims to punish officers who authorise property transactions based on forged or other documents prohibited under the law.

All Bills were passed amid pandemonium in the House without a debate.

According to the Bill, the registering officer (usually a sub-registrar) should refuse to register documents that are forged, prohibited by any Central or State Act and those belonging to immovable properties that are permanently or provisionally attached by any court, tribunal or competent authority such as investigation agencies. The Bill proposed to punish officers with imprisonment up to three years.

Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda said documents of sites allocated to several MLAs and people across the State have been forged and sold to third persons by manufacturing fake documents. This has led to court cases and delayed justice to many families.

The Karnataka Land Revenue (Amendment) Bill, 2023, was passed in the House to make conversion of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes unnecessary in planned areas.

The Karnataka Cooperative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2023, was also passed to constitute a common cadre of employees at cooperative societies. "Constitution of a common cadre is essential to reduce the cases of misappropriation of money in the Primary Agricultural Co-Operative societies," the Bill said.

The government also amended the Code of Civil Procedure (Karnataka Amendment) Bill, 2023 that aims to provide for speedy disposal of cases in which persons having no sustained strength to fight prolonged litigation in courts are involved.

CID probe ordered into Jain monk's murder

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government has ordered a probe by the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) into the murder of a Digambar Jain monk in Belagavi.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah announced in the Legislative Assembly that the CID will probe the murder of Acharya Kamakumara Nandi maharaj on July 6. The body was found on July 8.

In response to the demand from the public for the probe, the government decided to hand over the probe to the CID, he said.

Members of Opposition BJP have been demanding a probe by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDERS (Only through KPP portal)

BWSSB invite tenders in Two Stage Tender System from Eligible Contractors for the the below mentioned works.

Name of Work	Amount put to Tender / EMD Amount
Office of the Chief Engineer (WWM-West), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bangalore-560009	
No.BWSSB/CE(WWM-W)/ACE(WWM-N-W)/DCE(WWM-E&W)/TA-2/236/2023-24	Date: 19.07.2023
Work of Providing and Laying of 500mm RCC NP-3 Class sewer pipe from muthurayana nagar to Existing sewerline inside SWD near Muneshwara Temple, Dubasipalya Lake, Bangalore.	Rs.181.55 Lakhs / Rs.3.21 Lakhs
Last date and time for Receipt of tenders will be on **03.08.2023 up to 17.30 hrs.** Technical Tender will be opened on: **05.08.2023 at 17.30 hrs**	
No.BWSSB/CE(WWM-W)/ACE(WWM-N-W)/DCE(WWM-E&W)/TA-2/234/2023-24	Date: 19.07.2023
Work of Providing and Laying 450/600/900mm dia RCC NP3 class line from 2nd main near BDA Park Nagarabhavi 2nd Stage to along outer ring road service Road, Near Nammura Thindi linking to existing 1000/1200 mm dia sewer pipeline near Lokapath Road, NGEF Layout Park.	Rs.336.55 Lakhs / Rs. 6.00 Lakhs
Last date and time for Receipt of tenders will be on **18.08.2023 upto 17.30 hrs.** Technical Tender will be opened on: **21.08.2023 at 17.30 hrs**	
Sd/- Chief Engineer (WWM-West)	
Office of the Engineer in Chief, 2nd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bangalore-560009	
No.BWSSB/EIC/ACE(WWM-P-West)/DCE(WWM-E&W)/TA-2/1196/2023-24	Date: 19.07.2023
"Project Monitoring Consultancy Services for the Work of Up-gradation of STPs with BNR removal system for Rajacanal 40 MLD STP Phase I & Phase II and 10 MLD Yelahanka TTP under Hebbal Valley STPs and Nagasandra 20 MLD STP Phase I (3 ISPS) & Phase II and 5 MLD Chikkabanavara STP under Arkavathi Valley STPs. (3rd Call)	Rs.213.80 Lakhs / Rs. 3,21,000/-
Last date and time for Receipt of tenders will be on **26.07.2023 upto 17.30 hrs.** The bids will be opened on: **28.07.2023 at 17.30 hrs**	
Sd/- Engineer in Chief	

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/KAVITA/604/2023-24

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

With profound grief, we hereby inform that our beloved mother

Smt. V. JAYAM, (90)

(W/o Late Sri. N. Seshaiyer, Retd. L.I.C. of India, D.O. Thanjavur)

attained the Lotus Feet of Lord Krishna on 13/07/2023 at 6:35 PM, during Ekadasi Thithi. Dasasthu (10th day) and Subhasveekaram (13th day) will be conducted on Saturday, 22/07/2023 and on Tuesday, 25/07/2023 respectively, at her home

74, 3rd Cross Street, TPS Nagar, Thanjavur - 613007. Tamil Nadu

Om Shanthi Shanthi Shanthihi

By: Sons, Daughters, grand children and great grand children.
RSVP: +919843014172, vjayam16@gmail.com

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

Fond Remembrance

Shri. C. BASAVAPURNAIAH

8th Anniversary

Left us this day on 20th July 2015

Without His Vision, we would have no dreams or direction.
Without His Inspiration, we would have no guidance.
Without His Legacy of conviction and truth,
we wouldn't be who we are. And today, we pay tribute to the legend behind our success story.

C.V. Rao Family, Friends and Colleagues

CITYBEATS

Music and appreciation

JULY 20, 5PM
There will be a lecture demonstration on 'Music Appreciation and Technology', by Kaustuv Kanti Ganguli. Organised by the Indian Music Experience Museum (IME), this lecture will focus on psychoacoustic and scientific approaches to music appreciation in the context of Hindustani Music. It is open to all.
At Indian Music Experience Museum, JP Nagar.

Book launch and a talk

JULY 22, 5PM
Author Sajita Nair will launch her book *The Grande Matriarch of Malabar*. Sajita will be in a conversation with Shinie Antony, writer-columnist and co-founder of the Bangalore Literature Festival. The novel explores the fading legacy of a matrilineal household in a bygone era in Kerala.
At Atta Galatta, Indiranagar. Call 9632510126.

The crochet connect

ON TILL JULY26, 4.30PM
Called 'Connect Over Crochet', this is a workshop that will teach you the basics of crochet, as well as all you need to know about yarns and hooks, changing colours and completing a project. Classes will be conducted by Pragnya Parchurey. Fee is ₹4500 per person, inclusive of material.
At Atta Galatta, Indiranagar

Rukmini eyes a versatile journey in Kannada cinema

Actor Rukmini Vasanth, despite being one film old, has bagged several big projects, including Rakshit Shetty's Kannada romance drama 'Sapta Sagaradaache Ello' and an untitled film with Vijay Sethupathi

Vivek M.V.

On a learning curve Rukmini Vasanth and Rakshit Shetty on the sets of 'Sapta Sagaradaache Ello'. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Rukmini Vasanth believes in the domino effect. "You do things randomly and you don't know where it takes you," she says, explaining how she bagged exciting opportunities in her budding career. Even as the actor is busy shooting for an untitled Tamil film with Vijay Sethupathi, Rukmini is awaiting the release of *Sapta Sagaradaache Ello* (SSE), the biggest film of her career yet.

"I still don't know the genesis of the Vijay Sethupathi film," says the Bengaluru girl. "I was speaking with the film's assistant director, and he said he had seen me in a Malayalam hair oil advertisement that I had done in 2018.

"So I believe you got to keep trying, and something will come out of your efforts. That's how it happened in my case. A Tamil team saw an advertisement I had done in Malayalam and felt I could fit into a role in their film," she says.

It is remarkable how a one-film-old actor has managed to be part of upcoming big projects in Kannada, such as, *Bhagheera* , bankrolled by *KGF* franchise makers, Hombale Films, *Bhairathi Ranagal* starring veteran Shivarajkumar and *Baanadariyalli*, a romantic drama starring Ganesh.

Grabbing a role in *SSE* proved to be the game-changer for Rukmini as it opened the doors to other films. She says she went all out to get the role in *SSE*.

"I saw an article in the newspaper that said the *SSE* team was auditioning for the female lead role. I had my eyes on this project since March 2019, when they released the title poster. I loved it and even shared it on social media, congratulating them. When they were looking for a lead, I took a shot in the dark and messaged them, adding my credentials. Ten days later, they got in touch, and I was selected after the audition. I chased the role with everything I had."

SSE, starring Rakshit Shetty, Chaithra J Achar and directed by Hemanth Rao, is a romantic drama set to release in two parts. The first part releases on September 1, while the second will hit the screens on October 20.

"The film could trigger a movement of fresh love stories in Kannada."

Rukmini is a promising prospect in an industry which has not had a female superstar since Ramya, who returned to cinema last year after an eight-year stint in politics. Rukmini is a trained dancer, and an alumnus of the Royal Academy of Dramatics Arts (RADA) in London.

"If I go to sets and don't know how to begin my performance, I have a Meisner Performance Theory or a Stanislavsky Performance Theory to fall back on. Another thing I took from my RADA practice is journaling.

"During my classes, when I was preparing for a performance, I would journal as the character. This process helped me during the filming of *SSE*, as my character was intense and had many layers."

Rukmini also draws inspiration from her parents. Her father, Col. Vasanth Venugopal, was an Ashok Chakra recipient. He was killed in combat in Uri, Jammu and Kashmir in 2007.

Rukmini's mother, Subhashini Vasanth, is a renowned Bharatanatyam dancer who set up the Vasantharatna Foundation of Arts in 2007 to support families of soldiers killed in action.

"One thing I have tried to imbibe from my father is his discipline. It doesn't matter when I need to be on the sets or what skills I require to be ready for a film. I will do it. I take my work seriously. I owe my dance skills to my mother."

Kannada filmmakers hardly write solid roles for female leads. Rukmini, who debuted in a thriller titled *Birbal*, has a hunger for wide variety of characters.

"I don't have a problem with being in a film just for a dance number or as the love interest. How do I contribute to the film with given parameters of the script? That's my goal. So , *Baanadariyalli* was a big deal for me.

"Preetham sir (director) was keen on me learning to surf in Mangalore and didn't want to use a body double. That was a clincher for me. Today, I know how to surf."

Social media, once in a while, is abuzz about Rukmini's stills from film sets and outside of them.

"I am trying to share parts about me that are genuine and see what comes out of it on social media. As for negativity on the platform, I am learning to build a thicker skin."

Smashing times ahead

Anurag Tagat

Rare sighting Dakhni troupe Ghalata-e-Dakhnistan in performance SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Among the several things that cannot be revealed about Bengaluru Dakhni hip-hop crew Clan Bokka Phod's upcoming performance is the setlist. Mohd Affan aka Pasha Bhai – co-founder of the collective who released India's first Dakhni rap album *Bangalore Ka Potta* last year, says it is a secret.

Soon enough, he does offer some explanation about the second edition of their recurring showcase series Ghalata-e-Dakhnistan, taking place on July 22 at the Museum of Art and Photography (MAP) auditorium. "We are going to have a couple of new artistes in the line-up. Plus, we are going to be playing a lot of fresh music that we've been cooking," Pasha Bhai says.

With several members of Clan Bokka Phod stepping on and off stage for rap, DJing and beatboxing, Ghalata-e-Dakhnistan is keen on recreating the energy of their inaugural edition last year. Talking about the forthcoming event, the crew's manager Ojas Shetty says, "Be assured that Pasha Bhai and Demixx Beats will close the set. Clan Bokka Phod and each member – Nimbu Da, Aib and Syed and Marwan, as well as Pasha and Demixx, will perform some signature songs, *shayari* and skits, in addition to the new songs."

It is a tight-knit community pushing a rare artform, rap music in Dakhni, within Clan Bokka Phod and they intend to do it not just through releases available on music streaming platforms, but more so with performances and cyphers. Between last year's edition of Ghalata-e-Dakhnistan and now, crew member Syed Ahmed says they have been experimenting with different genres while keeping Dakhni and Urdu storytelling at the centre of their tracks. "We've earned a newer and bigger audience. There's been a lot of interest in Dakhni hip-hop."

At the same time, feedback from other corners has been "highly fragmented", according to another Clan Bokka Phod member, Aib. "Not so much from our general listeners and audiences, as from our family and close relatives. While we find it liberating to produce and express through Dakhni, our family has been advising against it saying that if we hope to become mainstream at some point, then we should write and perform in Hindi or Urdu, as Dakhni can be very limiting."

Despite that, Pasha Bhai feels there is a special joy when they can make their audience, who are usually not Dakhni speakers, sing with them. "My personal favourite part (of concerts) is when we, for however brief a moment, convert everyone in the audience to a Dakhni. You just have to chant a slogan with us and congratulations, you've become one of us," he says with a laugh.

With more recorded material and the promise of "big things only" in 2024, Clan Bokka Phod say they also find it to be a thrilling journey to find new spaces within the city to showcase their performances and events. Their manager Shetty adds that the plan is to keep Ghalata-e-Dakhnistan as a recurring annual cultural event. "We hope that with each edition, we are able to do something new and different, not just in terms of the musicians, comedians or performers that we bring together for the line-up, but also in terms of how the Clan's music is experienced by the audience."

Like its upcoming edition, it intends to be a free event for all audiences. The way Shetty sees it, Clan Bokka Phod are among those who are reviving a "once thriving but long dead 'literary' culture" of performances in Dakhni. In terms of long-term viability, the manager feels, "It needs the patronage of arts and cultural institutions. . We hope to one day take Ghalata-e-Dakhnistan to Hyderabad and other cities across the country too."

Ghalata-e-Dakhnistan takes place on July 22, 6 pm onwards at Mazumdar-Shaw Auditorium, first floor, Museum of Art and Photography (MAP).
Entry free

Art as it were

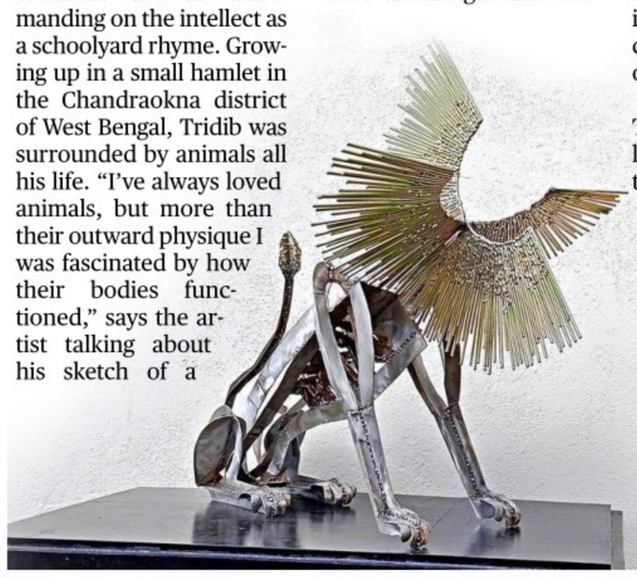
Ruth Dhanaraj

Art need not always be mysterious with hidden meanings; sometimes what you see is what you get. The works of artist Tridib Bera, on display at an exhibition titled Body Language are a case in point.

Comprising largely animal shapes and forms, almost all the works in this exhibition are unnamed. "I used to title my work if I thought it was necessary," says Tridib. "However, since all the works in this series are pretty straightforward, they have been left as is."

Straight talking Tridib Bera and one of his creations. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Titling his work would be quite inane as Tridib's creations are as undemanding on the intellect as a schoolyard rhyme. Growing up in a small hamlet in the Chandraokna district of West Bengal, Tridib was surrounded by animals all his life. "I've always loved animals, but more than their outward physique I was fascinated by how their bodies functioned," says the artist talking about his sketch of a dog. Produced on paper using litho chalk, the image is not only a simple depiction of man's best friend, but also seems to offer an in-sight into the creature. The same holds true for Tridib's image of a ram; despite its thick outer fleece, viewers get an eyeful of what lies beneath, at least according to the artist.



Sometimes closely packed geometrical shapes add 'muscle' to his animals, at other times , the artist makes do with thick, fluid brushstrokes.

Tridib, who uses mixed media such as pastels and crayons for his sketches, also works with stainless steel to craft sculptures. "Though I am from West Bengal, I have been living in Hosur, Tamil Nadu, for the past 15 years and since steel in all its forms can be found in abundance there, it became my medium of choice," says the alumnus of Shantiniketan.

Much like his drawings, Tridib's sculptures do not leave much to the imagination, sporting a see-through, 3D mien. Yet, as obvious as his work might seem, certain missing features on the figures only add to the appeal of his work. For instance, his reproduction of a lion is faceless, but the mane is a dead giveaway.

Body Language by Tridib Bera will be on display at Gallery Time and Space from July 21 to July 31.

INBRIEF

SC adjourns Sivasankar's bail plea in LIFE Mission case

The Supreme Court on Wednesday adjourned a plea for bail by M. Sivasankar, former Principal Secretary to the Kerala Chief Minister, who is facing money-laundering charges in a corruption case linked to the State-powered LIFE Mission housing project for the homeless. A Bench headed by Justice A.S. Bopanna agreed to defer the case after Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, for the Enforcement Directorate, sought more time to file a reply to Mr. Sivasankar's plea.

Oommen Chandy's family declines State honours

The family of former Kerala Chief Minister Oommen Chandy has formally requested the government to forego State honours mandated by the Kerala Cabinet. They said the late leader willed a simple funeral as per Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church rites. The mortal remains of the leader will be laid to rest in a special tomb which is being built in an exclusive area reserved for departed priests of his parish on Thursday.

Priest Immanuel Lopez declared Servant of God

Catholic priest Monsignor Immanuel Lopez, born in May 1908 and brought up in the heart of Kochi, was declared Servant of God here at his home Chathiath Mount Carmel parish on Wednesday by Varappuzha archbishop Joseph Kalathiparambil during a concelebrated mass. A person is declared Servant of God by the Catholic Church to indicate that the process of her or his being possibly declared a saint (canonisation) is on. It is the first of the four steps to canonisation.

HC stays investigation on FIR against BJP's Amit Malviya

Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee's communication department had lodged a complaint alleging that a video on Rahul Gandhi he had tweeted had created enmity between groups

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Wednesday stayed the First Information Report (FIR) registered against Amit Malviya, head of BJP's information technology cell based on the complaint filed by Ramesh Babu, co-chairman of Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee's (KPCC) communication department.

The FIR was registered against Mr. Malviya on June 27 for posting an animated video on his Twitter account criticising Rahul Gandhi under the caption, "Rahul Gandhi is dangerous and playing an insidious game..." It was alleged in the complaint that the contents of the video amounts to creating enmity between different groups on the ground of religion, race, and for creating or promoting enmity, hatred and ill-will between classes by circulating statement containing rumour, besides defaming Mr. Gandhi.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna, before whom Mr. Malviya's petition came up for hearing, said that matter requires consideration and passed the interim order staying further investigation to be conducted based on the FIR.

"The tweet is against an individual, who is said to be the leader of the Indian National Congress party and if it is against an individual how would a tweet against an individual become an act of creating enmity between two different groups be invoked against the petitioner," the court questioned in its order.

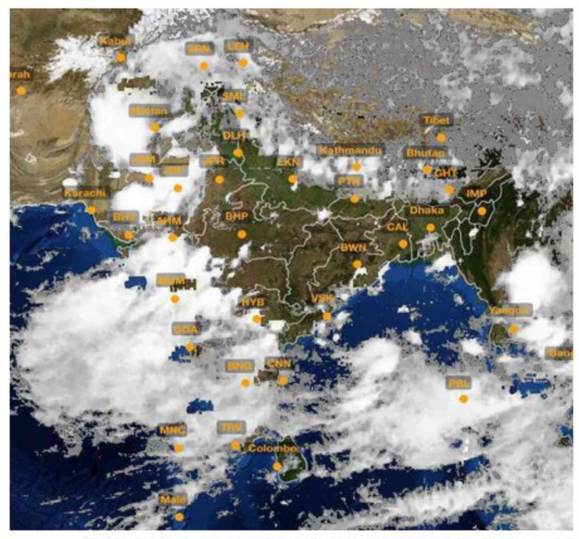
"If further investigation is permitted to continue, it would run foul of the judgment of the apex court in the case of *Patricia Mukhim vs. State of Meghalaya* in which the apex court has interpreted the purport of these provisions of the IPC," Justice Nagaprasanna observed.

Earlier, BJP MP and advocate Tejsavi L. Surya, appearing for Mr. Malviya, had argued that the allegations are not even remotely linked to the contents of the video uploaded on Twitter account as it does not contain any element related to causing social discord between groups.

The complaint was filed mischievously to wreak vengeance against the petitioner, who belongs to rival political party, and the narration of complaint is nothing but creative imagination of the complainant, it has been alleged in Mr. Malviya's petition.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Thursday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Gujarat, Rajasthan, Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Muzaffarabad, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Odisha, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, central Maharashtra, Vidarbha, Marathwada, Konkan & Goa, coastal Karnataka, Kerala and Mahe

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	5	36.1	26.3	Kozhikode	5	31.4	25.2
Ahmedabad	3	34.2	27.4	Kurnool	8	27.6	23.4
Aizawl	6	29.0	20.7	Lucknow	—	35.4	28.4
Allahabad	—	37.0	28.7	Madurai	—	37.5	27.4
Bengaluru	—	27.3	20.8	Mangaluru	6.3	29.4	25.1
Bhopal	32.9	—	24.5	Mumbai	53	27.3	24.8
Bhubaneswar	—	32.8	25.9	Mysuru	—	31.2	21.6
Chandigarh	—	34.7	28.3	New Delhi	0.7	36.5	27.6
Chennai	—	36.0	29.4	Patna	—	36.6	29.1
Coimbatore	—	32.3	24.4	Port Blair	1	31.0	27.6
Dehradun	7	32.0	24.2	Puducherry	—	36.7	26.8
Gangtok	1	25.5	18.4	Pune	10.3	25.2	22.5
Goa	104	27.5	23.5	Raipur	0.3	31.4	26.1
Guwahati	—	37.5	26.5	Ranchi	2	29.4	23.4
Hubballi	—	25.0	23.0	Shillong	—	27.0	18.8
Hyderabad	23	24.0	21.9	Shimla	7	22.9	16.5
Imphal	—	33.4	22.2	Srinagar	—	26.3	23.4
Jaipur	4	33.6	26.6	Thiruvananthapuram	9	31.6	23.7
Kochi	3	28.8	25.0	Tiruchi	—	36.7	28.0
Kohima	—	30.0	18.8	Vijayawada	5	28.2	25.2
Kolkata	11	34.0	27.3	Visakhapatnam	13	30.3	25.6

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.32	..48	.33	70	92	.....
Bengaluru	...8	..—	.30	...132	...117	.....
Chennai	...3	130	.47	88	80	.....
Delhi	..—	..24	108	47	85	.....
Hyderabad	.11	9	.36	62	66	.....
Kolkata	...6	..18	.22	27	29	.....
Lucknow	...5	..26	.37	...112	...124	.....
Mumbai	.27	..23	112	51	55	.....
Pune	133	225	109	31	27	.....
Visakhapatnam	.14	..48	.26	29	66	.....

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Bhilwara, Rajasthan recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 315 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Rajamahendravaram, Andhra Pradesh, recorded a healthy AQI score of 14

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Six, including three minors, held for urinating on tribal youth in Ongole

The Hindu Bureau
ONGOLE

A group of nine youth allegedly urinating on the face of a tribal youngster came to light in Ongole on Wednesday.

Three persons were arrested and an equal number of minor youth, including the brother of a minor girl, were sent to a juvenile home following investigation into the case on a complaint filed by the victim's brother.

The crime was reportedly a fallout of rivalry between two friends-turned-foes Mannam Ramanjeneyulu and Mota Naveen (the victim).

Both of them were allegedly involved in a number of property offences, and differences cropped up over sharing of the booty, the police said.

The relationship between them strained further after the victim continued his friendship with a minor girl.

Earlier, the police booked a case under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO) against Naveen and sent him to remand on charges of seducing the minor girl and sexually assaulting her.

On the pretext of patching up the differences, Ramanjaneyulu and eight of his friends took Naveen and his brother Raja to a remote place for partying. In an inebriated condition, they allegedly beat up Naveen with sticks and stones and urinated on his face.

The police were on the lookout for Ramanjaneyulu and two of his friends. The arrested included Rayapati Abhilash, 19, A. Jayashankar, 21 and Sk. Shadiq, 23.

Mekedatu issue: EPS flays Stalin

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The AIADMK's general secretary, Edappadi K. Palaniswami, on Wednesday asked why Chief Minister M.K. Stalin fought shy of raising the Mekedatu issue with the Karnataka government or its Minister D.K. Shivakumar.

Addressing journalists in New Delhi, he referred to the reception given by Mr. Shivakumar to Mr. Stalin in Bengaluru and wondered why the Chief Minister did not talk to the Minister about the issue.

AMMK's general secretary T.T.V. Dhinakaran criticised Mr. Stalin for not demanding, during his visit to Bengaluru, the release of Cauvery water.

Break time

Spick and span: With no fishing activity for another week, a worker is seen washing the fishing port in Mangaluru on Wednesday. Sixty days of fishing ban, owing to the monsoon, will come to an end on July 31. H.S. MANJUNATH

Ramya files case against team of 'Hostel Hudugaru Bekagiddare'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Actor-politician Ramya has slapped a court case against the makers of the upcoming Kannada film *Hostel Hudugaru Bekagiddare* for the "unauthorised use of her video clips" in the film's trailer and in the movie.

The film, directed by debutant Nithin Krishnamurthy, is scheduled to hit the screens on Friday.

₹1 crore compensation

The actor has sought ₹1 crore compensation from the makers.

The court order read: "A commercial suit bearing Com OS no 812/2023 against each of you on 17/07/2023 before 83rd Additional City Civil and Sessions Judge, at Bengaluru (commercial court CCH-84), being inter alia aggrieved by your actions in unauthorisedly using video clips of our client in the trailer of your film 'Hostel Hudugaru Bekagiddare' and also in the main feature film as well. This was done despite the fact that our client expressly and unequivocally refused/denied her consent for her video clips etc., being used. This suit inter alia alleges a violation of the Artistic Agreement dated April 2022 along with a violation of her celebrity/publicity rights and moral rights under the copyright act, 1957."

Gulmohur Films Pvt. Ltd., Zee Entertainment Enterprises Pvt. Ltd., Varun Kumar Gowda, Nithin Krishnamurthy, Arvind Kashyap, Prajwal BP, A2 Music (Ashwini Media Networks) and Parmavah Studios have been issued the notice. The court issued an interim junction on Tuesday.

Promotions

Eight months ago, as part of the promotions, the film's team had done a video featuring Ramya. The video was titled 'Queen Is Back'.

Touted to be a college comedy, *Hostel Hudugaru Bekagiddare* has cameos from filmmakers Rishab Shetty and Pawan Kumar. It is presented by actor-director Rakshit Shetty.

Telangana to raise health insurance coverage to ₹5 L

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

In a significant move aimed at improving healthcare accessibility to its citizens, the Telangana government has decided to substantially increase the health insurance coverage provided to Aarogyasri beneficiaries. The current coverage of ₹2 lakh will be raised to ₹5 lakh, providing a significant safety net for those in need.

As part of this initiative, the government will also be introducing Aarogyasri digital cards for all beneficiaries in the coming weeks, making it easier for them to avail the enhanced health insurance coverage.

No damaged foodgrains found in Karnataka in last one year: FCI

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

Under the National Food Security Act, Karnataka received 2.17 lakh metric tonnes (LMTs) of foodgrains per month upto June FY23, as against the all-India allocation of 371.53 LMT of foodgrains, said Bhupendra Singh Bhati, General Manager, at Food Corporation of India's (FCI) Karnataka office in Bengaluru.

Also, for the last one year, a quantity of 1.69 LMTs of fortified rice has been issued from depots under the divisional offices of FCI Karnataka, under various welfare schemes. "There is no damaged foodgrain stocks accrued in Karnataka region in the past one year," Mr. Bhati observed.

For the last one year, a quantity of 22,24,404 MTs of non-fortified rice has been issued under various government schemes and also for ethanol production in Karnataka. For 2022-23, a total of 43.85 LMT of food grains has been moved to the State. During 2023-24, a total of 6.03 LMT of foodgrains has been moved into the State till June 2023.

As on July 1, 2023, the stock position of rice in Karnataka was 6.49 lakh metric tonnes and in respect of wheat it was 0.63 LMT agains the all India stock position of rice and wheat at 253.49 LMT and 301.45 LMT, respectively. he said.

Karnataka produced 9.93 LMT of ragi and 1.22 LMT of jowar during Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2021-22 and procured 4.04 LMT of ragi and 1.03 LMT of jowar. In KMS 2022-23, 11.54 LMT of ragi and 1.76 LMT of Jowar was produced and 4.544 LMTof Ragi and 0.76 LMT of Jowar was procured.

"It is worth mentioning that Karnataka has moved ragi to deficit States. In respect of Andhra Pradesh, a quantity of 22,707 MT has been moved till July 17. A quantity of 991 MT were moved to Kerala and a quantity of 2639 MT has been moved to Tamil Nadu," Mr. Bhati added.

Tiger orchids, largest orchid species, bloom at Kerala's Jawaharlal Nehru botanic garden

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

It's that time of the year when the spotlight is on the Tiger orchids at the Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute (JNTBGRI), Palode, a town in Thiruvananthapuram.

The orchid variety, native to South East Asia, is in bloom at the Palode institute. *Grammatophyllum speciosum*, popularly known as the 'Tiger orchid,' is the largest orchid species in the world, JNTBGRI officials said.

They are called Tiger orchid because of their splendid flowers which sport striking brown spots against a yellow backdrop, bringing to mind tigers.

In full bloom: Tiger Orchid at Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute in Kerala. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

This species is native to Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Myanmar and Laos.

Flowering starts in June and lasts till August. This three-month period is also a time when orchid lovers flock to the institute to have a peek.

The huge size of this orchid in the natural habitat produces five cm-thick stems that grow up to three metres in length.

Tallest orchid

"The plant was listed by the Guinness Book of World Records as the world's tallest orchid, with specimens recorded up to 7.62 metres in height," the institute said.

The inflorescence, standing three metres high, can have 80-100 flowers each.

After 8-12 years of growth, *Grammatophyllum speciosum* produces flowers in alternate years in its natural habitat.

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Consecutive days of temperatures above 35°C in Beijing

27 days. On July 17, Beijing broke a 23-year-old record with a four-week streak of high temperatures. On July 19, temperatures reached 36.3°C. Heatwaves have been sweeping Asia and Europe. AFP

The number of Test wickets taken by Stuart Broad

600 England's 37-year-old pacemen dismissed Australia's Travis Head on the first day of the fourth Ashes Test to join an exclusive club of bowlers who have taken 600 Test wickets. AFP

The United Nations cut cash aid to Syrian refugees in Jordan

1.2 lakh. Due to funding shortages, the UN World Food Programme announced a reduction in cash aid to refugees across two Jordanian camps. Since war broke out in Syria, 6.50 lakh were displaced. AFP

The temperature in Phoenix for the 19th consecutive day

110 In degrees Fahrenheit. No other major metropolitan city in the U.S. has had any stretch of 110-degree days or 90-degree nights longer than Phoenix. It's the longest streak that the country has ever seen. AP

Tata's investment in an electric car battery factory in the U.K.

5.2 In $ billion. Tata Group's first gigafactory outside India will be built in Somerset, southwest England to supply its Jaguar Land Rover brands. AFP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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Why are tomato prices still high?

What is the size of India's tomato cultivation? What has fuelled the current tomato inflation? Why is it being described as a seasonal issue? How does a spike in tomato prices affect the Consumer Price Index? What are the ways to control the inflation volatility of tomatoes?

EXPLAINER

Diksha Munjal

The story so far:
As prices of tomatoes hover between ₹100 and ₹200 in various parts of the country, the Reserve Bank of India's latest monthly bulletin has highlighted that the volatility of tomato prices has historically contributed to overall inflation levels in the country.

How is tomato produced in India?
Tomato production in the country is concentrated regionally in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Odisha, and Gujarat, which account for close to 50% of total production, according to Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare figures. There are two major crops of tomato annually – kharif and rabi. The rabi crop hits the market between March and August annually while the kharif crop comes to markets from September. Some regions in Maharashtra and Himachal Pradesh's Solan are able to grow tomatoes during the monsoon months, while in the summer, Andhra Pradesh's Madanapalle region alone accounts for tomato cultivation in the entire country. As for tomato production, it peaked in 2019-20 at 21.187 million tonnes (MT) and has been declining since. In 2021-22, it dropped to 20.69MT and 20.62MT in 2022-23.

What is fuelling the price rise?
There are multiple factors for the dip in overall tomato production this year, with the two key reasons being extreme weather conditions and low commercial realisation of the crop for farmers in the months before June as well as last year.

The heatwaves and high temperatures in April and May along with delayed monsoon showers in southern India and Maharashtra led to pest attacks in tomato crops. As a result, inferior-quality varieties came to markets earlier this year, fetching farmers prices ranging as low as ₹6 to ₹11 per kg between December last year and April 2023. A lot of farmers resorted to selling whatever crop they had at these prices while some abandoned their crops. This led to a crunch in supply. Later, incessant rains in tomato-growing regions further affected the new crop. The fact that July-August is a lean production period for tomato, as it falls between yields, compounded the problem. Reports show that many farmers in the Kolar district of Karnataka, which is usually responsible for sizeable tomato supplies, shifted to beans owing to the higher prices it fetched last year.

Gold rush: People wait to buy tomatoes at a subsidised price in Visakhapatnam on July 18. DEEPAK K. R.

Is it a seasonal issue?
The Centre has called this sudden and sharp price rise in tomatoes a "seasonal" and temporary issue. Consumer Affairs Ministry Secretary Rohit Kumar Singh stated that there is a seasonality to tomatoes, adding that the data on tomato prices of the last five years showed that the rates had risen every year at this time.

However, policy experts over the years, and now the RBI and the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), have expressed concerns over this high seasonal price volatility of tomatoes and its impact on the overall Consumer Price Index (CPI). A NABARD study from last month notes that tomato is the most volatile out of all the three TOP (tomato, onion, potato) agri-commodities. While the weightage of the food and beverages component in the combined CPI is 45.86, vegetables account for a relatively small part of this at 6.04, and the TOP commodities are even lesser at 2.20. Even with such a low weightage, the contribution of TOP to the overall CPI has been quite volatile. In June 2022, at 8.9%, tomato had the largest contribution among 299 commodities in the CPI basket. There are multiple reasons behind this starting with how it is more perishable than onion and potato. Supply chain issues in transporting the vegetable from areas where it is grown to regions where it is not compound the problem. A July 2022 study by ICRIER notes how tomato prices have been following a cyclical phenomenon, with the same situation arising every alternate year. The year 2021 also saw prices drop to as low as ₹2-₹3 per kg for farmers. This led to a lot of them cultivating tomatoes in lesser land area and shifting to other crops, which resulted in a glut.

How can volatility be controlled?
Policy experts say high volatility can be tamed by making some improvements. First, since tomato is highly perishable, improved value and supply chains can help with the problem. An organised value chain involves a market-focussed collaboration of a set of entities working in tandem to produce, process and market products and services in an effective and efficient manner. An ICRIER study suggests increasing the processing capacity for tomatoes. Building more processing units and linking tomato value chains to processing of at least 10% of tomato production into tomato paste and puree during peak seasons, and using them in the lean season when fresh tomato prices spike can be a solution. The development of integrated cold chains has also been suggested.

A 2022 study estimated that farmers' share of what consumers pay for tomatoes is only 32%. Eliminating middlemen and encouraging Farmer Producers Organisations to sell produce directly, as well as amending rules of Agricultural Produce Market Committees to reduce commission and other fees has been suggested.

THE GIST

- Tomato production in the country is concentrated regionally in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Odisha, and Gujarat, which account for close to 50% of the total production, as per the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare figures.
- The Centre has called this sudden and sharp price rise in tomatoes a "seasonal" and temporary issue.
- However, policy experts over the years have expressed concerns over this high seasonal price volatility of tomatoes and its impact on the overall Consumer Price Index (CPI).

What are the takeaways from the NATO summit?

How did Ukraine's presence influence the Vilnius summit? Why did Turkey lift its opposition against Sweden?

Harsh V. Pant
Vivek Mishra

The story so far:
For quite a few years, many questions were asked about the relevance of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). However, the war in Eastern Europe has upended these narratives and provided a renewed raison d'etre not just for strengthening the alliance but its expansion as well. The latest NATO summit held in Vilnius this month underscored both these strategic necessities for the NATO.

How was this summit different?
A standout of the Vilnius Summit was the attendance of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and the anticipation around the possibility of extending NATO membership to Ukraine. In this regard, the launch of the NATO-Ukraine Council as a forum for crisis consultations and decision-making indicated that NATO tried to assuage the feelings of Ukraine for not being included in the alliance by creating a mechanism for its wider engagement, support and future inclusion as a full member. From Ukraine's perspective, the Vilnius summit did usher promise but little immediate gains. All three priorities outlined by President Zelenskyy – new weapons packages, security guarantees and an invitation to join NATO – went unfulfilled. However, the U.K. did pledge ammunition support to Ukraine. Additionally, garbed in the urgency to help Ukraine, NATO has levelled up its own defences. NATO's new plans involve maintaining a force of 300,000 troops, with air and naval capabilities, while emphasising the importance of a strong industrial base, leading to the endorsement of a Defence Production Action Plan.

What is the significance of the entry of new members?
The inclusion of Finland and approval of Sweden as NATO members indicates a few things. First, it signals that the Alliance continues to practise Article 10 of the Washington Treaty signed in April 1949 which states that member countries can invite other European countries to become members of NATO. It rests Ukraine's potential membership on fertile grounds and conceptually deters Russia from taking steps against members of NATO. Secondly, Turkey's scaling back of its long-standing opposition to Sweden's inclusion in NATO is a significant shift. While the final approval remains contingent on Turkey's parliament, Turkey President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's facilitation of Sweden's membership prompts a desire to mend relations with the U.S. A better relationship with the U.S would cushion Ankara's faltering economy and provide opportunities to resolve bilaterally contentious issues.

What was the U.S.'s stance?
U.S. President Joe Biden's speech at the summit extended unwavering support to the alliance as well as Ukraine. This is seen as an important assurance as former president Donald Trump's approach to NATO was drastically different from Mr. Biden's. Mr. Trump had considered withdrawing the U.S. from NATO while the current President has pitched his support to Ukraine as a political legacy of his administration, not just in resurrecting trans-Atlantic solidarity but also by drawing a bipartisan consensus on Ukraine domestically.

Who are other threat actors to NATO?
The Vilnius summit minced no words on the challenges and threats emerging from China's stated ambitions and coercive policies. It stated that NATO faces threats from China's malicious hybrid cyber operations, as well as confrontational rhetoric and disinformation, which specifically aim at NATO allies and pose a threat to the security of the Alliance. The NATO summit emphasised that the developments in the Indo-Pacific have become increasingly consequential for Euro-Atlantic security with expanding space for Quad countries, along with other regional countries like New Zealand and South Korea.

But even as the summit was on, Russia launched a drone attack on Kyiv, depicting an undeterred approach to NATO's potential expansion. It is this contestation that is likely to define the future of Eurasian security.

Harsh V. Pant is Vice President for Studies at the Observer Research Foundation. Vivek Mishra is a Fellow at ORF.

THE GIST

- A standout of the Vilnius Summit was the attendance of Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelenskyy and the anticipation around the possibility of extending NATO membership to Ukraine.
- Turkey President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's facilitation of Sweden's membership prompts a desire to mend relations with the U.S.
- The Vilnius summit minced no words on the challenges and threats emerging from China's stated ambitions and coercive policies.

Show of strength

The BJP is investing more in alliances as the 2024 general election draws closer

A gathering of 38 political parties in the national capital endorsed the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the 2024 general election and renewed the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), which had become redundant with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) winning a Lok Sabha majority on its own in 2014 and 2019. That Mr. Modi is the leader of the BJP is unquestionable but he is determined to show that his strength is not limited to his own party. The NDA has expanded with the induction of several parties in recent months, notably in Maharashtra where splinter groups of two regional parties, the Nationalist Congress Party and the Shiv Sena, have joined the bandwagon. In Uttar Pradesh, Om Prakash Rajbhar's Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party has returned to the saffron camp, after an acrimonious split ahead of the 2022 Assembly election; in Bihar, both factions of the Lok Janshakti Party, and breakaway groups and individuals from the Janata Dal (United) are powering the NDA. More matches are in the works – the Janata Dal (Secular) in Karnataka, and the Telugu Desam Party led by N. Chandrababu Naidu in Andhra Pradesh are in touch with the BJP. These new alignments have electoral implications, at a minimum in Maharashtra, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, where the BJP hopes to retain its primacy.

Apart from these electoral calculations, the point being made also is that the BJP under Mr. Modi, despite its position of strength, is eager to have a broad coalition of parties and social groups. The NDA's show of strength comes against the backdrop of an evolving united front of Opposition parties against the BJP. Mr. Modi has accused the Opposition coalition of being opportunistic – a charge that is undoubtedly true, but then it equally holds true for the NDA as well. The BJP remains formidable in its strongholds, but it does not want to leave things to chance. It has a maximalist approach in electioneering. In parading its own partners, the BJP wants to reassure itself and its supporters that the party is not isolated or politically untouchable. Of particular note is the BJP's relationship with the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam in Tamil Nadu that continues despite many irritants, as it seeks a foothold in the Dravidian fortress. The party is likely to have more tricks up its sleeve in the coming weeks. Part of the BJP agenda, such as the call for a Uniform Civil Code, will test the endurance of the NDA, but there are enough reasons for these parties to stick together.

Missing numbers

A new review panel is good, but the Centre must trust its own data

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has formed a new Standing Committee on Statistics (SCoS) to advise on official data, including the household surveys carried out by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO). Headed by India's first Chief Statistician, Pronab Sen, the SCoS replaces a similar panel set up in December 2019 to advise on economic statistics. While Mr. Sen also headed the incumbent panel, the SCoS formed now has a broader mandate to help design surveys for all types of data, identify data gaps that must be plugged, and conduct pilot surveys for new data sets. With 14 members, the new panel is also leaner and more likely to deliver quality guidance. The 28-member economic data review panel may have found it tougher to establish a coherent consensus. One of the new panel's first tasks will likely pertain to the results of the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) by the NSSO over the past year, and it must sensitise users on the methods deployed and interpretational nuances they necessitate.

The HCES is critical not only to ascertain people's living standards over time but also the key to revising economic indicators such as the Consumer Price Index and the Gross Domestic Product used to measure the economy's output. The last survey, with another quinquennial employment survey, was conducted in 2017-18, but the government had opted to junk the findings in November 2019, citing data quality issues. Then, top government mandarins sought to discredit the official statistical machinery's methods to dispute reports that the NSSO's consumption and employment surveys reflected elevated economic distress in households. Now, members of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister have revived such critiques, perhaps as a preemptive move to deflect from any adverse outcomes that the latest HCES may throw up. That is, if its results are published. Data from the 2017-18 Survey released by Maharashtra indicates that households' spending power and access to amenities had improved since 2011-12, despite the demonetisation shock, although inequality widened on some fronts. So, that data was not all bad news after all. Whether data is fit for release should be left to the independent National Statistical Commission that was reconstituted late last year but is still marred by vacancies. Simply destroying the credibility of one's own systems may achieve short-term obfuscation goals, but it also leaves one clutching at straws to prove governance outcomes. The SCoS can pro-actively try to bridge the trust deficit between India's once-revered statistical system and data users, which has led to the current vacuum of official data. The end result of such a vacuum is that government policy neither acknowledges nor addresses some ground realities that warrant intervention.

A job and career right the disabled cannot be denied

Nikhil Jain

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'Justice delayed is justice denied' is a statement often used in the context of judicial cases that have been or are pending for long in courts of law. There could be several factors responsible for such a situation to arise. These include the complex nature of cases; a lack of judicial attention as far as the aggrieved party is concerned, and even a lack of resources/power/other kinds of support available to the aggrieved side. One such issue that has become a victim of such a state of affairs is reservation in the promotion of persons with disabilities.

The Persons With Disabilities (Equal Opportunities Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995, or the PwD Act, first recognised the right of the disabled person to be employed and promoted in government jobs on equal basis with others. In order to ensure this, it introduced 3% reservation for the disabled in employment. The reservation of seats for the disabled existed in Groups C and D prior to the introduction of the PwD Act. Now, the Act extended reservation for the disabled in Groups A and B – a progressive step towards ensuring the dignity of and equality for the disabled at all levels including career advancement in government jobs. In addition to this, it also fixed the percentage of reservation of seats at 3%, which opened the gates of recruitment to disabled people in different sectors of the government.

An integral part of reservation

Reservation for the disabled in promotion in all groups was first interpreted as an integral part of reservation by the Department of Personnel and Training, order no. 3603517195-Estt./SCT, which was passed in 1998. This Government Order was issued by the department in 1998 after the passage of the PwD Act, 1995. It happened after Parliament enacted the provision of reservation of promotion for Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST), reversing the Supreme Court of India verdict in *Indra Sawhney Etc. vs Union Of India And Others, Etc.*, where reservation in promotion for SCs and STs was withdrawn. The Department of Personnel and Training interpreted the Parliament enactment to be applicable to persons with disabilities also as they are from the marginalised sections of society as well, and hence enjoy similar protection from the state of law.

Unfortunately, another Department of Personnel and Training order, i.e., no. 36035/3/2004-Estt/Res, in 2005 withdrew the reservation of the disabled in promotion in Groups A and B. The department's reversal of its own order was not only shocking but also clearly reflected the apathetic and hostile attitudes of the administration and government towards the needs and aspirations of the disabled. The department's order of 1998 opened the doors of opportunity to the disabled to progress in their organisations in keeping with the spirit of the PwD Act. But the department's order of 2005 may be understood by the ruling dispensation as an expression of denial of equal space and place to the disabled at the higher level in organisations.

> By prolonging the process of final adjudication in the issue of reservation in promotion, the judiciary is only compounding government apathy towards disabled persons and their rights

Counter action, contempt filing

As a result, a case, no. 36035/3/2004-Estt(Res) was filed in the Supreme Court in 2008, by Rajeev Gupta against the Union of India. After deliberations and hearings for around eight years, it was adjudicated to grant reservation in promotion for the disabled in Groups A and B, which, regrettably, had been taken back by the Department of Personnel and Training order of 2005. The final judgment was made in 2016, granting reservation in promotion in Groups A and B. But the Government of India did not make any effort or give any direction to implement the judgment.

Mr. Gupta then filed a case of contempt in the Supreme Court in 2017; the hearing still continues. The government counsel filed an affidavit arguing for the stopping of the proceedings in the contempt petition by Mr. Gupta citing the presence of another case, i.e., *Siddaraju vs State of Karnataka & Ors.* in the Supreme Court, in 2017. This affidavit by the Government of India is an attempt to cause hindrance to the result of the contempt petition. As a result, the contempt petition is still in the process of hearing.

The Civil Appeal no. 1567 of 2017 in *Siddaraju vs State of Karnataka & Ors.*, in its several hearings, also upheld the reservation in promotion for the disabled and made null and void the Department of Personnel and Training order of 2005.

It is important to note that in both the cases, the Court challenged the decision in the Indra Sawhney judgment by noting that Article 16(4) does not disable the Indian state from providing preferential treatment such as reservation to the backward classes of citizens under Article 16(1). However, such differential/preferential treatment should not be on the grounds of caste, or religion among other things. The Court also noted that the basis of providing reservation to the disabled is physical disability which is not forbidden under Article 16(1) that guarantees equality of opportunity in state employment or office. Therefore, the right of getting reservation in promotion for persons with disabilities could be ensured under Article 16(1) of the Constitution.

Government's response

A miscellaneous application, no. 2171 of 2020 in Civil Appeal no. 1567 of 2017, *Siddaraju vs State of Karnataka & Ors.*, was filed by the government, in this case for clarification on the ways and means to implement reservation in promotion for the disabled. But the miscellaneous application was actually an attempt to delay the process of implementation of reservation in promotion for the disabled. The application was subsequently dismissed in 2021.

The government came up with another order, i.e., no. 36012/1/2020-Estt.(Res.-II) through the Department of Personnel and Training on May 17, 2022. Though the order made important clarifications on the reservation of seats for the disabled in recruitment, it failed to make any mention of reservation for the disabled in promotion since 1996, which should be the case as in the PwD Act, 1995 and the department's own order of 1998 which quite clearly provided for reservation for the disabled in promotion in Groups A and B since then. This denial by the government was another attempt to delay the process of justice to the disabled, ultimately leading to the denial of justice.

The judiciary has played a significant role in granting justice and equality to the disabled especially after the enactment of the PwD Act, 1995. There have been several court cases where persons with disabilities have had redress of their grievances and been able to gain their meaningful and dignified place in society. However, in this case, by prolonging the process of final adjudication in the pending issue of reservation in promotion, the judiciary has compounded government apathy towards the needs and the aspirations of the disabled. In doing so, it only diminishes its laudable role in achieving the lofty goals of equal opportunity and enabling a just and congenial environment for the disabled to grow in society. The denial of reservation in promotion is a major factor in denying the disabled the right to progress to a higher level in their organisation. It is a hindrance in the goal of inclusion of the disabled in society. It is also preventing them from making an active contribution to India's development. The judiciary should proactively make a decision keeping in mind the inclusive constitutional wisdom of the Indian republic.

More than court action, revisit the Indus Waters Treaty

Anwar Sadat

is Senior Assistant Professor in International law at the Indian Society of International Law, New Delhi

The Indus Waters Treaty (1960), or IWT, that regulates the Indus water courses between the two riparian states of India and Pakistan, is cited by many as an example of cooperation between two unfriendly neighbours for many reasons. These include the IWT having survived several wars and phases of bitter relations, and its laying down of detailed procedures and criteria for dispute resolution.

But in the last decade, exercising judicial recourse to settle the competing claims and objections arising out of the construction and design elements of the run-of-river hydroelectric projects that India is permitted under the IWT to construct on the tributaries of the Indus, Jhelum and Chenab before these rivers flow into Pakistan, has increased.

In January this year, Pakistan initiated arbitration at the Hague-based Permanent Court of Arbitration to address the interpretation and application of the IWT to certain design elements of two run-of-river hydroelectric projects – on the Kishanganga (a tributary of the Jhelum) and Ratle, a hydro-electric project on the Chenab. India raised objections as it views that the Court of Arbitration is not competent to consider the questions put to it by Pakistan and that such questions should instead be decided through the neutral expert process.

On July 6, 2023, the court unanimously passed a decision (which is binding on both parties without appeal) rejecting each of India's objections. The court determined that it is competent to consider and determine the disputes set forth in Pakistan's request for arbitration.

Future supply of water

In an atmosphere of a lack of trust, judicial recourse appears to be the only rational strategy by the IWT parties. But it is not likely to address the rapidly growing industrial needs of the two countries, apart from food and energy needs. The IWT provides only "some element of predictability and certainty with regard to the future supplies of water to the riparian states, but it needs to incorporate mechanisms that allow flexibility to changes in the quantity of water available for allocation among the parties", which a paper in *Water Policy*, the official journal of the World Water Council, highlights.

> Incorporating the two cardinal principles, i.e., 'equitable and reasonable utilisation' and the 'no harm rule', in the treaty will help reduce tensions between India and Pakistan

Bilateral water agreements are "vulnerable to climate change as most of them include fixed allocation of amounts of water use that are concluded under the assumption that future water availability will remain the same as today", the document adds. Under the partitioning logic in the IWT, envisaging a vesting of proprietary rights in the eastern rivers (Article II, Sutlej, Ravi and Beas) to India, and in a similar fashion, the vesting of proprietary rights in the western rivers (Article III, the Indus, Jhelum and Chenab) to Pakistan, does not take into account future water availability.

The IWT requires Pakistan that it is under obligation to let flow and shall not permit any interference with the waters of the eastern rivers. India, similarly, is also obligated to let flow all the waters of the western rivers and shall not permit any interference with these waters except for certain uses which include generation of hydro-electric power on the rivers and tributaries of the western rivers before they flow into Pakistan. With climate change altering the form, intensity and timing of precipitation and runoff, this assumption regarding the supplies of water for agricultural purposes and industrial needs does not hold true.

Principles of water course

The partitioning of the rivers goes against the logic of treating the entire river basin as one unit which is needed to build its resource capacity. The thrust of the IWT is optimal use of the waters which India believes to be the object and purpose of the IWT as opposed to Pakistan's understanding to be the uninterrupted flow of water to its side. Reconciling this divergent approach can be sought with the help of two cardinal principles of international water courses law accompanying binding obligations, i.e., equitable and reasonable utilisation (ERU) and the principle not to cause significant harm or no harm rule (NHR).

Although there is no universal definition of what ERU amounts to, the states need to be guided by the factors mentioned in Article 6 of the Convention on the Law of the Non-navigational Uses of International Watercourses 1997, including climate change. The NHR is a due diligence obligation which requires a riparian state undertaking a project on a shared watercourse having potential transboundary effect to take all appropriate measures relating to the prevention of harm to another riparian state, including carrying out a transboundary environmental impact assessment.

In order to ensure rapid development, the states prioritise the ERU over the NHR. Both India and Pakistan believe their uses are consistent with the IWT. In a situation of conflict between different uses of water, it is suggested in Article 10 of the 1997 Convention to lean on "vital human needs" in the context of the ERU and the NHR. 'Vital human needs' are debatable but the inclusion of these principles in the IWT will help in erasing the differences. Even without its inclusion in the IWT, the ERU and NHR are binding on both countries as they are customary international law rule generating the binding obligation to both parties. But the inclusion of these principles in the IWT will ensure predictability to a certain extent.

In an atmosphere of a lack of trust between the two neighbours, the World Bank, a party to the IWT, may use its forum to forge a transnational alliance of epistemic communities (who share a common interest and knowledge to the use of the Indus waters), to build convergent state policies, resulting in the ultimate inclusion of these two principles in the IWT. Thus, revisiting the IWT is a much needed step.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

NDA vs INDIA

For the new political coalition, the electoral battle is half won with the catchy slogan, INDIA vs NDA (Page 1, July 19). Any Indian would like to see 'India' win in any match. It may appear that the number 38 on the side of the National Democratic Alliance is higher than the 26 on the Opposition side, but most of the NDA partners are insignificant as far as their political strengths are concerned. The catchy acronym 'INDIA' has instant recall. With the launch of INDIA, the Bharatiya Janata Party has been compelled to think of its old and practically forgotten allies. That the Congress managed to patch up with the Aam Aadmi Party is the kind of political maturity required. Political togetherness is a *sine quo non* at this propitious juncture.

V.N. Gopal,
Chennai

The 'Indian Political League' is poised for a close contest in 2024. The INDIA coalition is the one that faces more challenges as the issue of the massive corruption tainting many of the members of this coalition will be raised. Though the target of this new alliance is the Prime Minister, one cannot dismiss his global stature, dynamism and record of governance.

A.P. Thiruvadi,
Chennai

ED's actions, politics

While the Enforcement Directorate may be 'blamed' and criticised for 'targeting' only Ministers from the Opposition parties, political parties are equally, if not more, to blame for having corrupt elements within their rank and file. In the case of the two Ministers in the Government of Tamil Nadu, the ED has enough and more reason to probe them.

Per se, it cannot be called vendetta politics. However, the national ruling party has yet to walk the talk when it comes to 'welcoming' the corrupt into its fold. Therein lies the rub.

Avinash Godboley,
Dewas, Madhya Pradesh

Corrections & Clarifications

In the Editorial page article titled "India, France and what keeps their ties ticking" (July 19, 2023), the reference to I.K. Gujral signing India's first-ever Strategic Partnership agreement with *Jacques Chirac* should have said "with a *P-5 country*".

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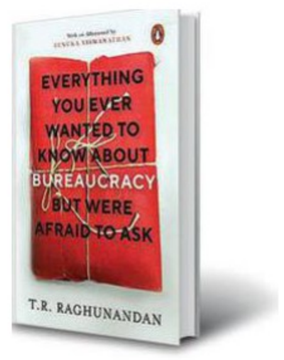
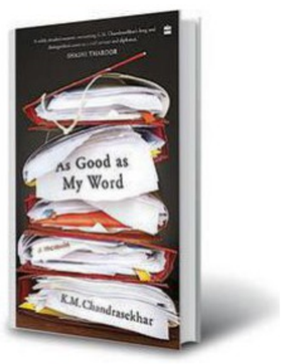




A genre in itself: civil service memoirs are important records of public administration

The best memoirs aren't the 'tell-all', gossipy accounts, but those that are insightful and reflective, acknowledging the role of civil servants in implementing policy decisions, and providing glimpses of the truth

Uma Mahadevan-Dasgupta

Bain was an unusual civil servant. "Call me Bain" – those were his first words when we met at his son, writer Dilip D'Souza's house in Bandra. J. Bain D'Souza was five decades older than me and had joined the civil service in the year that India became independent. As a trainee officer, he helped to organise refugee camps during Partition. He held key postings, including as Municipal Commissioner of Bombay and Chief Secretary of Maharashtra.

Bain also told terrific, self-deprecating jokes. His memoir, written in equally modest and very readable style, was titled *No Trumpets or Bugles: Recollections of an Unrepentant Babu*.

In spare, no-frills prose, he writes about the work of public administration in the early decades of the life of the nation. He also notes a troubling trend in a section of the IAS over the years: of becoming unreflective in work, dealing only with "what their clerical army feeds them... slaves of their in-trays." This naturally impacts accountability and responsiveness.

But, he adds, what has stayed unchanged is this: "The official's readiness to regard himself as master rather than servant of the people. This is something we happily inherited from the British... Our officials have steadily played God. They have known best what is good for the people, and being predominantly from the upper classes, have tended to make policy choices that favour their own kind. So (for example) you get the neglect of public transport in our cities."

Witness to history

The civil service memoir is a genre in itself and an important part of the record. Civil servants are witnesses to major historical moments and key discussions on policy. Nevertheless, the best civil service memoirs aren't the 'tell-all' or salacious accounts filled with gossip about the weak or fractious moments of powerful leaders. The most interesting memoirs are insightful and reflective, acknowledging their role of implementation rather than as prime movers of policy decisions; and providing glimpses of the truth, but in the poet's words, "telling it slant".

Civil service memoirs ought to be compelling – after all, they have a ringside view of history – but let's face it, many are hard to finish. They tend to be full of 'me, myself, and I' – forgetting that there is no 'I' in government, but that it is really all teamwork, with some of the hardest work being done by those who are directly in contact with the people at street level, especially frontline community workers.

Some civil service memoirs provide a chronological account of every single posting and every anecdote in excruciating detail. Some get lost in stories about "When I was a Collector" – forgetting that after the 73rd Constitution Amendment, the role of the Collector – a creation and legacy of the British administration – is marginal at best, and that it is decentralised local governance which needs to be strengthened.

Some sharp commentaries

The memoir can only be as interesting as the life story it tells. In a sea of banal, self-obsessed, and triumphalist narratives, there are some that stand out. One highly readable memoir is V. Balasubramanian's *Fall from Grace: Memoirs of a Rebel IAS Officer*. Intelligently written, richly detailed, and with the sharpest of commentary, Balasubramanian brings an original voice to his telling of several decades of administrative history.

Another deeply unusual memoir is Chiranjeev Singh's *Yaava Janmada Maitri*, written in Kannada. Born in pre-Independence India in Punjab, Singh served as India's Ambassador to UNESCO in Paris, and worked and settled in Karnataka where he retired as Development Commissioner.

K.M. Chandrashekhar's recent memoir *As Good as My Word* is also about an unconventional career. In his assessment, the high points of his work, even more than the four years spent as Cabinet Secretary, were his tenures in Brussels and Geneva at the WTO, where, using negotiation skills learnt while dealing with unions and factions in Kerala, he worked on international trade policy.

I have also been drawn to analyses that take a long, honest look at the bureaucracy itself, not from the centre but from the margins.

One such critique is T.R. Raghunandan's witty and ironic deconstruction of life bound up in red tape, titled *Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About the Bureaucracy but Were Afraid to Ask* – a trenchant look at a civil service that takes itself far too seriously. Another is N.C. Saxena's introspective and deeply researched *What Ails the IAS, and Why It Fails to Deliver: An Insider's View*, in which he argues why the IAS must share the blame for the country's inadequate performance on hunger and inequality.

Lack of women's voices

I have often wondered why there are so few memoirs by women civil servants. Surely, they have stories to tell, not least of all about the entrenched patriarchy they have often had to struggle against in their work. Yet perhaps, as women tend to do, they undervalue their own contributions.

At a recent discussion on a civil servant's book, there was the inevitable question about why civil servants wait until retirement to write their memoirs.

The answer is quite simple: for one thing, service conduct rules come in the way; for another, it is difficult to reflect and write in the midst of meetings, crises, and multiple demands on one's time; but the most important reason is that it is only after retirement that it is possible to take a long, measured look at the years that have gone by.

Finally, not all civil servants write their memoirs – but they leave a mark in the systems and processes they put in place. P.R. Nayak of the 1954 batch of the IAS passed on this week. Among the many deeply felt tributes, his junior colleagues recalled how, as Development Commissioner before the advent of computers, Nayak had devised a detailed system for monthly multilevel reviews, from the taluka to state level, of major developmental programmes – a system that continued to serve the state for decades.

A great legacy indeed.

Uma Mahadevan Dasgupta is in the IAS.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

July 20 is celebrated as International Moon Day. Here is a quiz on the celestial wonder that inspires artists, poets, scientists and conspiracy theorists alike

Abhinaya. K

QUESTION 1
Which year did the UN decide to mark July 20 as moon day to commemorate the moon landing touted as one of the biggest achievements in the history of mankind?

QUESTION 2
Astronauts aboard the Apollo 11, Apollo 14 and Apollo 15 missions left mirrors on the surface of the moon. These mirrors are important scientific instruments that help measure the speed of light. Is the statement true or false?

QUESTION 3
A character was named after the second man on the moon, Buzz Aldrin, in an animated Pixar movie. Identify the character.

QUESTION 4
"with a Silver practise— She vaulted out of Gaze". This poet describes the moon in a hauntingly beautiful poem. Identify the poem and the poet.

QUESTION 5
The dark areas on the moon are called mares. Name the famous mare chosen as the landing site for Apollo 11.

QUESTION 6
Pink Floyd captured artists' lunar fascination with their now iconic line 'I'll see you on the dark side of the moon'. Which song is the line from?

Visual question:
Identify the 1902 French science-fiction adventure film that this iconic image is from. WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. These are the three Grand Tours. **Ans: Giro d'Italia, Tour de France and Vuelta a España**
2. This is why the Tour de France began. **Ans: to boost the circulation of the newspaper *L'Auto***
3. This is the name of the women's cycle stage race around France, and the year it was started in. **Ans: Tour de France Femmes, 2022**
4. This jersey is awarded to the race leader. **Ans: Yellow jersey**
5. This book mentions the Tour and Ottavio Bottecchia. **Ans: *The Sun Also Rises***
6. This former racer is the most successful rider in the history of competitive cycling. **Ans: Eddy Merckx**
Visual: Identify this man. **Ans: Didi Senft. He is a German cycling fan who is known as Didi the Devil or El Diablo at the Tour de France.**
Early Birds: Barnika Bera| K.N. Viswanathan| Sumit Kumar| Vinod Chandra Raiguni| Sunil Kannada

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

"Sir, Mrs. K. Deepa Mahalakshmi, C/48, Koel Nagar, Rourkela, wants to know whether the word 'newsy' exists."

" 'Newsy' exists and it means 'filled with news', 'given to gossip'.

I received a newsy letter from my colleague yesterday.

She is a newsy old aunt of mine.

Some think that news is that which we get from all directions – north, east, west and south. This is not the origin of the word. It is from middle English 'news' which is the plural form of 'new'. 'News' is 'new or fresh information'. 'News' always takes a singular verb.

What is the news?

The news from home is disturbing.

No news is good news.

In British English 'news' rhymes with 'fuse'. The final 's' is pronounced 'z'. In American English, 'news' rhymes with 'lose', 'booze'."

"Sir, Ms. A. S. Zaidi, New Delhi, wants to know the meaning of the sentence 'It was a good take-off of the Chief Minister'."

"A 'take-off' is 'an imitation, especially in the way of caricature'. The sentence means that it was a good mimicry of the Chief Minister.

He did a nice take-off of Gandhiji."

"Sir, Mr. H. Salim, III B.A., University College, Trivandrum, wants to know the meaning of 'Snafu'."

"'Snafu' is slang. It means 'in a state of utter confusion'. It is an acronym from 'situation normal, all fouled up'. 'The meeting ended up in a snafu' means that the meeting ended in utter confusion."

"Mr. P. S. Sridharan, 53 Sadras East, Kalpakkam, wants to know whether the word 'burning' is used correctly in the sentence 'The lights are burning'."

"It is correctly used. 'Burn' means 'to be on fire or alight'.

The house is burning.

The lights in the house are burning.

The candle is burning."

"Sir, Mr. K. A. Madhava Raja, 112C, Ukkunagaram, Visakhapatnam, wants to know the difference between 'conserve' and 'preserve'."

"When you preserve something, you see to it that it is kept intact. You take steps to ensure that it is protected in every way.

The old records should be preserved for posterity.

We must preserve the books from moisture and light.

We must preserve our historical monuments.

'Conserve' means a wise use of something valuable. The implication here is that it will be difficult to replace it once it is used up.

We must conserve water when there is drought.

We must conserve our forests.

'Conserve' implies 'the use of means to prevent unnecessary or excessive change, loss or depletion'.

Don't keep on talking late into the night. You must conserve your energy for the function tomorrow."

Published in The Hindu on September 20, 1988.

Word of the day

Languor:
a relaxed comfortable feeling; oppressively still air; a feeling of lack of interest or energy; inactivity; showing an unusual lack of energy

Synonyms: sluggishness, lethargy

Usage: *The afternoon was hot, quiet, and heavy with languor.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/languorpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈlæŋgə/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Online abuse among college students

Anjali Rangaswami
is a Fulbright scholar and cyber harassment expert

When Anushka, a 19-year-old college student, found "morphed" nude images of herself online, she became suicidal. A former boyfriend pasted her face onto the naked bodies of other women, creating images of what appeared to be Anushka herself. The images, sent to her college WhatsApp group and posted online, were found by her parents the same day. Anushka's story is just one among the countless instances of technology-facilitated sexual violence (TFSV), a growing problem affecting college students across India.

My research on TFSV revealed that online abuse disproportionately affected young women. I surveyed 400 students from 111 Indian higher education institutions and found that a staggering 60% of women experienced some form of TFSV compared to only 8% of men.

TFSV can take many forms, such as morphed nude images, sexualised blackmailing and bullying, digital flashing, rape threats, and explicit comments and messages. It pervades every social media and messaging platform, but Instagram, Facebook and WhatsApp are the ones especially culpable.

Abuse is linked to an individual's name and online profile, and can remain on the Internet forever. Many survivors experience depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety, and suicidal thoughts. There are tangible consequences to online abuse too such as a loss of academic or career prospects, social isolation, and violence and ostracisation by one's own family. Meanwhile, abusers hide behind anonymity.

Where can the survivors turn for help? India's IT Act of 2000 criminalises some forms of TFSV, but ambiguities in the law can deter survivors from reporting. Although the law has coaxed some safety improvements, technology giants such as Meta are unmotivated to overhaul their safety features beyond the bare minimum. India has the most Facebook users in the world, yet Meta has not optimised its platforms for an Indian context.

For example, Meta's safety moderation algorithms are trained mostly in American English, so abusive content in Indian languages is less likely to be detected. With the upcoming Digital India Act, the government has an opportunity to strengthen its regulations for technology platforms and compel social media companies to take accountability.

Crucial intervention point

Institutions of higher education (IHEs) are another crucial intervention point for online harassment of students. The guidelines for prevention and redressal are comprehensive, yet the legally-mandated mechanisms often go unused, if they exist at all. IHEs must have Internal Complaints Committees (ICCs) to investigate incidents of sexual harassment, but many institutions struggle to form, train, and manage these committees. Even if an ICC finds a student guilty of sexual harassment, there is no guarantee that higher authorities will hold them accountable.

Unsurprisingly, students reported low awareness and utilisation of ICCs in their institutions. Of the students surveyed, 44% were unsure whether they could report online sexual harassment to their college at all. Not a single survivor chose to formally report the incident.

Students were clear about how to address TFSV at their institutions. They proposed that their schools provide anonymous helplines and reporting options, mental health services from trained counsellors, and grassroots solutions like hosting workshops, safety training, facilitated discussions, and designating student organisations to lead response efforts. Legal regulations already mandate that IHEs conduct gender sensitisation programmes and empower students to engage their community. The missing piece is the implementation of these measures while the allocation of funds is also imperative.

> With access to the Internet fast becoming a basic human need, sexual violence facilitated using technology is an issue that requires our immediate attention

Social impact

TFSV demands our immediate attention as it magnifies existing social inequalities. In my research, I found that only 22% of women surveyed felt safe online compared to 73% of men. Accessing the Internet, which is increasingly becoming a basic human need, is obstructed by TFSV– the replication of a patriarchal system that disempowers women. Widespread violence on the Internet has serious implications for women's role in society.

Addressing the problem of TFSV means focusing on the needs of survivors who are the most affected. Survivors said that aside from gender, factors such as caste, religion, sexual orientation, class, and region heightened their vulnerability online. Further research on how TFSV impacts other marginalised identities is crucial to solving the issue.

What can we do to make a difference? In addition to advocating for the proposed solutions, openly discussing TFSV without shaming or blaming survivors is another essential step – part of an ongoing movement to improve India's levels of sexual violence, from harassment to rape. Survivors overwhelmingly stated that stigmatisation and trivialisation of their experiences were a significant part of the problem. As our world becomes increasingly digital, the issue of TFSV grows more urgent by the day. Raising awareness of TFSV and implementing solutions is vital while the problem is still within our control.

If you have been affected by TFSV and need help, call the TechSakhi helpline (080 4568 5001), email help@SocialMediaMatters.in, or visit www.bloom.chayn.co

Corruption outside, vendetta inside

ED's targeting of DMK Ministers in T.N. is seen as BJP's intimidation tactics

STATE OF PLAY

B. Kolappan
kolappan.b@thehindu.co.in

The M.K. Stalin government in Tamil Nadu is facing one crisis after another with the Directorate of Enforcement (ED) targetting its Ministers. After arresting V. Senthilbalaji, now a Minister without portfolio, in an alleged money laundering case last month, this week the agency searched the premises of party bigwig and Higher Education Minister K. Ponmudy and his son and MP Gautham Sigamani, in a similar case linked to irregularities in mining, registered years ago. The Minister was subjected to intense overnight questioning at the office of the ED on Monday and the questioning of different parties is underway with breaks in between.

While Mr. Stalin has thrown his weight behind both the Ministers, the ED on Wednesday focused its investigative attention on Fisheries Minister Anitha R Radhakrishnan, who, like Mr. Senthilbalaji, was accused of committing irregularities while in the erstwhile Jayalalithaa Cabinet. The agency has also moved the Thoothukudi Principal District Court to get a green light to assist the Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption in a disproportionate assets case against him.

In Mr. Ponmudy's case, the agency has frozen ₹48 crore in fixed deposits, besides seizing an unaccounted sum of ₹81.7 lakh. The ED's case is that the proceedings from illegal mining were deposited in benami accounts and used to acquire two overseas entities when Mr. Ponmudy was the Minister for Mines between 2007-2011.

While some have questioned the ED's assumption of the powers of a policing agency, Mr. Stalin sees a political motive behind the searches. He said that the "raids" were merely an expression of the BJP government's annoyance at the meetings of the Opposition parties in Patna and Bengaluru.

Stalin's support

Reiterating that the DMK would not be cowed by the ED's actions, he said that Mr. Ponmudy would legally face the cases foisted against him during the AIADMK regime headed by the late Jayalalithaa. He pointed out that some of the political parties that are now part of the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) have been termed as corrupt by the BJP earlier. "The Prime Minister has now embraced them," he quipped. On Wednesday, Mr. Ponmudy met the Chief Minister and briefed him about the searches and questioning by the ED.

Tamil Nadu is no stranger to corruption cases. Both the DMK and the AIADMK, when in power, have filed cases against each other. Some cases have ended in the conviction and disqualification of leaders such as Jayalalithaa and her former Cabinet colleague T. M. Selvaganapathy, who is now in the DMK.

Political leaders, who usually dismiss the cases against them as "political vendetta", have resorted to the same tactic now. Not just the DMK, but its allies, including the Left parties, see a conspiracy behind the searches in the houses and properties of Mr. Ponmudy, a powerful second-line leader of the DMK and known for his outbursts against his political enemies. When Governor R.N. Ravi staged a walkout from the Tamil Nadu Assembly, Mr. Ponmudy was seen making a gesture saying "go away".

It is not clear what would befall Mr. Ponmudy and his son. As of now, the DMK has put on a brave face to show the BJP that its intimidation tactics using raids and arrests will not work. The DMK is unlikely to relent and tone down its anti-BJP tirade.

It was Mr. Stalin, who first projected Congress leader Rahul Gandhi as the face of the Opposition in 2019 and also called for unity among the Opposition long before the ED entered the picture. If anything, the DMK may become more aggressive.

The BJP, however, could partially succeed in its attempt to portray the DMK as a party that "protects corrupt leaders." But this argument is unlikely to cut ice with the voters as moneybags in the AIADMK, BJP's principal ally in Tamil Nadu, have been spared of similar action.

Mr. Stalin says that the BJP is angry because he strongly advocated for an anti-NDA front that necessarily includes the Congress, and this put a spanner in the BJP's slogan of a "Congress-mukt Bharat".

What is however clear is that the law will take its course in every ED case, and the outcomes, if reached swiftly, will likely impact voter perceptions as well as the fortunes of the political parties involved, in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

A third of Central varsity teaching positions lying vacant

Location and age of the university are major factors behind higher vacancy

DATA POINT

Maitri Porecha
Vignesh Radhakrishnan

Over 30% of teaching positions are lying vacant in 45 Central Universities across India.

Of the 18,956 sanctioned teaching positions, about one-third (6,028) were vacant as of February, a Right To Information reply has revealed (**Chart 1**).

A State-wise split shows that 88% of the teaching positions were vacant in Odisha's central universities – the highest among all States. Jammu & Kashmir U.T. and Tripura are the other two regions where more than half the posts were vacant. On the other hand, Mizoram and Kerala had the least share of vacancies – 15% or less. (**Chart 2**)

UGC Chairman Professor Mamidala Jagadesh Kumar told *The Hindu* that vacancies in teaching positions arise when the Central University in question was founded newly. "Also, more vacancies can arise in some universities which are located in remote rural areas," Prof. Kumar said. For instance, the Central University of Odisha is located in Sunabeda town of Koraput district in Odisha which is up to 486 km away from the State capital, Bhubaneshwar.

A.P. University

Among universities, the Central University of Andhra Pradesh had a 100% vacancy, with none of the sanctioned teaching positions filled.

The Central University of Odisha, Dr. Harisingh Gour University in Madhya Pradesh, the Central Kashmir University and the Tripura University had over 50% of seats vacant. The National Sanskrit University in Andhra Pradesh and the Central Sanskrit University in Delhi had the least vacancies – 10% or less (**Chart 3**)

The Central University of Andhra Pradesh was founded in 2018. "This is a fairly new university. It usually takes three to five years for a Central University to have a fully functional campus. In new campuses, teaching faculty from older Universities are often asked to mentor and handhold until vacant positions get filled," Prof. Kumar said.

Caste-wise data

Overall, only 20% of teacher positions sanctioned under the general category were vacant, compared to 44% among OBC positions, 38% among SC positions and 45% among ST positions. Also notably, 71% of posts sanctioned under the EWS quota and 58% under the Persons with Disabilities were vacant. Among all the reservation groups, General Category positions had the least vacancy share. (**Chart 4**)

"We are constantly striving to fill the gap between general category and OBC/SC/ST category teachers by conducting special recruitment drives. Say if an OBC/SC/ST teaching position is not filled and goes vacant, we cannot replace that with a general category position," Prof. Kumar added.

"We also sensitise universities to advertise frequently in order to fill up the teaching positions. The recruitment cycle for any University takes four to six months," he said.

In order to get a window into how Central Universities recruit for teaching positions, the UGC has launched a portal – CU-Chayan, which will ensure that all vacancies are advertised by the Universities on a single platform. "Since May, up to 20,000 teaching candidates have registered themselves on the portal," Prof. Kumar said.

He added that the UGC is also studying recruitment patterns by running back-end analytics to understand the timelines over which universities recruit for teaching positions.

The RTI query was filed with the Minister of Higher Education by activist Chandrashekhar Gaur.

Vacant posts

The data have been sourced from an RTI reply given by the Minister of Higher Education

Chart 1: The chart shows the number of sanctioned, vacant and filled posts in the Central Universities

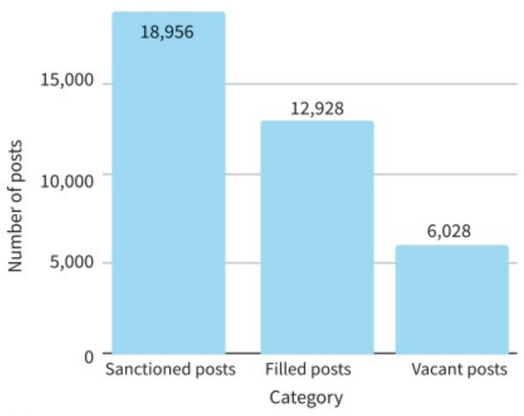


Chart 2: A State-wise split of the share of vacant posts in Central Universities. Only top ten States are depicted

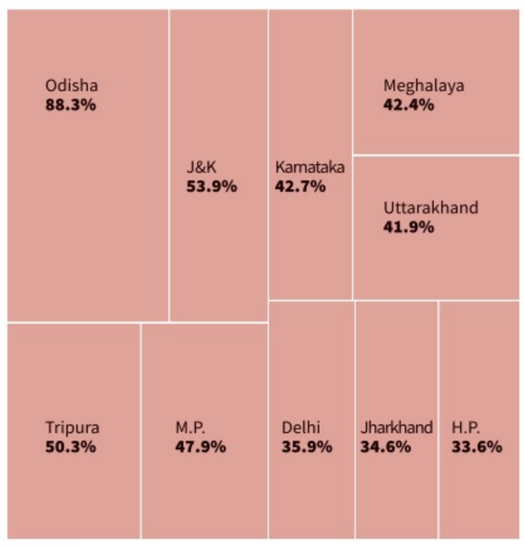


Chart 3: A university-wise split of the share of vacant posts in Central Universities. Only top ten universities are depicted

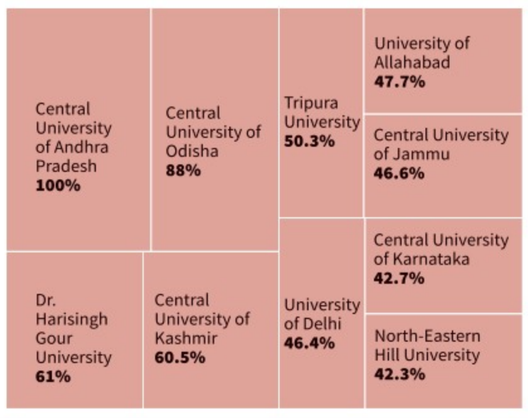
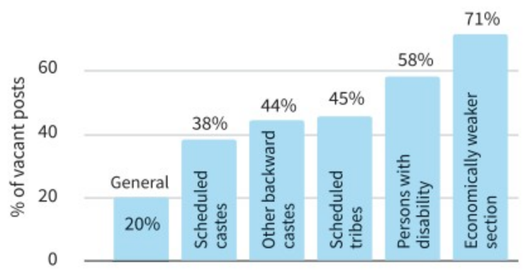


Chart 4: A caste-wise split of the share of vacant posts in Central Universities



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FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JULY 20, 1973

Soviet plan to improve rural education

Moscow, July 18

The Soviet Union, which prides itself on having one of the world's best school systems, has conceded that rural children, who make up half of the school population, were often getting a substandard education.

A decree of the Soviet Government and the Communist Party announced recently a seven-year programme to upgrade school buildings and the quality of education, provide more school buses and improve housing for teachers, who traditionally tend to shun rural assignments.

"The organisation of education in rural areas suffers from serious shortcomings," the decree said.

The disclosures on the low level of rural education reveal the continuing gulf between urban rural living levels in the Soviet Union despite proclaimed efforts to narrow the gap and ultimately eliminate it.

The greater attractions of city life have resulted in a steady flow of young people to urban centres depriving the rural areas of the more vigorous elements of the population.

In an effort to give rural schools a more practical orientation, the teaching of automotive skills and farm-machine operation will be introduced in an additional 10,000 schools by 1980. The decree did not say how many schools already teach such vocational courses.

The Soviet authorities have been increasingly concerned with the exodus of young people. The school decree provided for an expansion of rural vocational schools to teach skills that would keep young men and women on the land.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JULY 20, 1923

Planters in Conference

Associated Press of India. Bangalore, July 19.

The 30th session of South Indian Planters' Conference will be held at Maye hall on Monday the 20th August with a comprehensive programme to go through. 35 subjects are listed for discussion including legislation, means of communication and labour. The British Empire exhibition of 1924 forms an important item among the general subjects to be dealt with at the ensuing season which will last for four days in all.

From Page One

Activist Teesta Setalvad to continue on bail: SC

Custodial questioning was not necessary as the evidence in the case was documentary and in the hands of the police. Besides, the Bench said she was a woman and had already undergone arrest, police custody and detention in the case.

Ms. Setalvad was arrested from Mumbai on June 25 last year by a team of Gujarat Anti-Terrorism Squad officers. Her arrest was based on an FIR registered in Gujarat the previous day. The FIR was triggered by a Supreme Court judgment on June 24, 2022. The verdict had dismissed allegations of a "larger conspiracy" behind the riots, hatched with the connivance of the highest government functionaries at the time, including then Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi, the current Prime Minister.

On Wednesday, Mr. Sibal submitted that Ms. Setalvad was not even part of the Supreme Court proceedings and the observations in the June 24 verdict should not have been used to register an FIR against her.

Mr. Raju maintained that the activist had committed a "serious" crime and tried to destabilise an elected government in Gujarat by deliberately fabricating evidence.

ED seeks nod to aid DVAC in case against Minister

In a petition moved under Sections 301(2) and 302 of the Code of Criminal Procedure in April, ED Assistant Director S. Karthikeyan had said that the Madras High Court had, in AIADMK vs. State (1998), given a right to a third party to assist the prosecution, and therefore, the ED must also be given this opportunity in the public interest.

The Assistant Director also relied upon the Supreme Court ruling in *J.K. International vs. Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (2001)*, and sought the permission of the Principal District Court to submit documents collected by the ED against Mr. Radhakrishnan and make written submissions in support of the prosecution.

The ED recalled that the disproportionate assets case against the Minister was registered by the DVAC on September 7, 2006 under the Prevention of Corruption Act of 1988. The charge was that he had accumulated wealth disproportionate to his known sources of income when he served as Housing Minister during the 2001-2006 AIADMK regime.

The DVAC filed a chargesheet against the Minister and six members of his family on July 19, 2013. The trial court framed the charges against the accused on December 15, 2017. On December 22, 2020, the ED registered an Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR) under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act of 2002. It summoned the accused and recorded their statements, besides passing orders for the provisional attachment of certain properties.

"The Directorate has collected various evidences and recorded various statements to prove such *modus operandi* for depositing unaccounted income into bank accounts and acquiring disproportionate assets from such unaccounted money which are beyond the findings of the chargesheet [filed by the DVAC]," the ED told the district court.

Women face sexual violence in Manipur

One of the women was raped, the FIR said. The father and brother of the rape survivor were killed by the mob, according to a complaint filed by the village head. The complaint said the brother, aged 19, was killed while trying to protect his sister from the mob. Charges of murder have also been added.

The Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF), in a statement, said that the ordeal suffered by the women is amplified by the perpetrators' decision to share the video on social media revealing the identity of the victims.

The FIR stated that five villagers, including the three women, fearing for their lives had fled towards a forest and had been rescued by the police. However, the mob of around 900-1,000 men, some of them carrying sophisticated weapons, blocked the police team and snatched the five from the custody of the police, the FIR said.

The zero FIR was transferred to Thoubal police on June 21. It has been more than a month that a regular FIR was registered, but no arrests have been made.

Indefinite curfew

The State government imposed an indefinite curfew in the five valley districts of Imphal East, Imphal West, Bishnupur, Kakching, and Thoubal districts on Wednesday after a protest march was planned by a women's group.

Hoihnu Hauzel, a Manipuri journalist, said on Twitter, "The women were paraded naked, fondled and beaten in full public glare. A disturbing video taken by a perpetrator leaked and got viral today. This breaks all level of humanity."

Meanwhile the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) has deployed two senior officers from Nagaland and Assam to oversee the existing and additional companies deployed in Manipur in "view of present security situation". It created two tactical headquarters in Kangpokpi and Jiribam districts, other than the one in Imphal.

Other than the State police, 124 companies of Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) and 184 columns of the Army has been deployed in the State.

SC agrees to list pleas to criminalise marital rape before 3-judge Bench

Exception Two to Section 375 of the Indian Penal Code decriminalises marital rape; the petitions are largely triggered by decisions from Karnataka and Delhi High Courts, requiring an authoritative pronouncement from the Supreme Court

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud on Wednesday agreed to list early a series of petitions seeking the criminalisation of marital rape.

Senior advocate Indira Jaising and advocate Karuna Nundy jointly mentioned the case for urgent listing before the Bench led by the Chief Justice.

Ms. Nundy said that Ms. Jaising would address the court on the issues in law. Ms. Jaising said her petition also concerned child abuse, and even sought a hearing after the ongoing Constitution Bench session.

The court said the case would require a three-judge Bench, and agreed to list it early.

In an earlier hearing, Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, for the Union government, had said the case had not only legal ramifications but widespread social impact.

The petitions are largely triggered by decisions from the Karnataka and Delhi High Courts, requiring an authoritative pronouncement from the apex court.

The Karnataka High Court had held that a husband was liable to be charged for rape if he had forcible sex with his wife. The Karnataka government had supported the High Court judgment in an affidavit in the apex court subsequently.

Exception Two to Section 375 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) decriminalises marital rape and holds that sexual intercourse by a man with his own wife, who is not under 18 years of age, without her consent is not rape.

The petitions had argued that the Exception undermined women's consent to sex and violated bodily integrity, autonomy and dignity

"A man is a man; an act is an act; rape is a rape, be it performed by a man the 'husband' on the woman 'wife'," the Karnataka High Court had observed in its decision, saying an accused should be brought to trial regardless of the immunity in the penal code.

A Division Bench of the Delhi High Court had, however, in May 2022, delivered a split verdict in a separate case on the identical issue. Justice Rajiv Shakdher, who headed the two-judge Bench, had struck down as unconstitutional the Exception Two to Section 375 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

Split verdict in Delhi HC

However, Justice C. Hari Shankar, the associate judge on the High Court Bench, had rejected the plea to criminalise marital rape, noting that any change in the law should be carried out by the legislature since the issue required consideration of various aspects, including social, cultural, and legal.

Mr. Mehta had asked Chief Justice Chandrachud whether the apex court should wait till a three-judge Bench of the Delhi High Court delivered its decision in the case. But the CJI said the apex court already had the benefit of the crystallised views of two judges and would go forward and hear the petitions.

The Karnataka government has referred to the report of the Justice J.S. Verma Committee of 2013, which had recommended the removal of the exception for marital rape and proposed that the law should specify that "marital or other relationship between the perpetrator or victim is not a valid defence against the crimes of rape or sexual violation".

The petitions in the issue, including one by activist Ruth Manorama, had argued that the Exception undermined women's consent to sex and violated bodily integrity, autonomy and dignity.

Four High Courts get new Chief Justices

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The President on Wednesday appointed new Chief Justices to four High Courts.

Justice Sunita Agarwal has been made the new Chief Justice of the Gujarat High Court. She will be the only woman Chief Justice of a High Court.

Justice Alok Aradhe is the new Chief Justice of the Telangana High Court. Justice Aradhe was recommended by the Collegium after Justice Ujjal Bhuyan's elevation to the Supreme Court.

The President has notified the appointment of Justice Subhasis Talapatra as the Chief Justice of the Orissa High Court The collegium had recommended his name on the retirement of the incumbent, Justice S. Muralidhar, in August.

Justice Ashish Jitendra Desai will take over as the new Chief Justice of the Kerala High Court

Two militants killed in operation at Kupwara

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

Two militants were killed close to the Line of Control (LoC) in Kupwara district of north Kashmir on Wednesday.

"On the intervening night of July 18-19, around 11 p.m. troops detected suspicious movement along the LoC. Around 04:55 a.m., a contact was established with the terrorists. An intense firefight ensued, resulting in the elimination of two foreign terrorists," the Army said. The identity of terrorists is being ascertained, it said.

In a separate incident, militants shot dead a Forest Department employee and injured another in Pulwama district.

Opposition seeks Manipur debate in Parliament

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A debate on the violence in Manipur is a "non-negotiable" demand, Opposition parties told the government during an all-party meeting on the eve of the Monsoon Session of Parliament on Wednesday, insisting they would not settle for anything less than a detailed answer from Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the subject.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi said the government was willing to discuss every issue permitted under the rules and approved by the Chair of each House.

"Opposition parties have given many suggestions and our alliance leaders have also made a few recommendations. All parties have demanded for a debate on Manipur. The government is ready to discuss all the issues following the rules and regulations and with the permission of the chair in both houses of Parliament," Mr. Joshi said, at the conclusion of the meeting, which was chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and others arriving to attend the all-party meeting, in New Delhi on Wednesday. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

He also informed legislators that the government has listed 32 legislative items for the session.

"Just a discussion on Manipur will not suffice. The Prime Minister has to answer the debate," the Congress' chief whip in the Rajya Sabha Jairam Ramesh told reporters. His party colleague in the Lok Sabha, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, said that the Congress would move an adjournment motion on Thursday on the issue.

Apart from the Congress, a host of Opposition parties – including those under the new INDIA banner as well as the Bharat Rashtra Samithi – also raised the issue, urging Mr. Modi to break his silence on the Manipur violence.

The Trinamool Congress skipped the meeting, with the party's Rajya Sabha leader Derek O'Brien calling it a "waste of time" where the government makes "empty promises".

On Delhi ordinance

The INDIA bloc's parties also spoke in one voice on the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act, 1991. "The government should withdraw the Ordinance, considering a five judge bench is reviewing it in the Supreme Court. All the INDIA parties spoke about it," Mr. Ramesh said.

The Opposition's success in stalling the Bill replacing this Ordinance hinges on support from the Biju Janata Dal and YSRCP.

During the meeting, the BRS launched a scathing attack on the Central government for systematically dismantling the federal structure of the country. "I asked Rajnath Singh ji can you tell me if there is any provision in the Constitution that allows the Governor to dismiss a Minister," BRS leader Keshav Rao said. At least two parties – the BRS and the Indian Union Muslim League – raised questions about the Uniform Civil Code. Mr. Rao expressed dismay that though there has been so much discussion on UCC, the Bill was not listed for the session.

Citing the rising prices of all essential commodities and vegetables, the Opposition parties collectively demanded a structured debate on inflation. Several sources said that the government is likely to concede to this demand.

Manufacturing ecosystem for Airbus C-295 aircraft taking shape in India

Dinakar Peri
SEVILLE (SPAIN)

In September, the Indian Air Force (IAF) will receive the first C-295 transport aircraft and ahead of it, six pilots have been trained in Seville by Airbus and training of a 20-member maintenance crew is currently under way.

Ground breaking ceremony for a training centre at Air Force Station, Agra, was done in March with a full motion simulator to be delivered by the end of 2024. Work is under way for setting up the Final Assembly Line (FAL) at Vadodara in partnership with Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL), according to Jorge Tamarit, head of C-295 India programme, Airbus. The first aircraft manufactured in India would be delivered in September 2026.

"The FAL in Vadodara will be ready by mid-2024 and start production by November 2024," Mr. Tamarit said speaking to a small group of visiting presspersons from India. "Next week the Main Constituent Assembly [MCA] in Hyderabad is set to start production where several major sub-assemblies for the 40 aircraft to be assembled in India would be made, beginning with the rear-end fuselage."

Aiming high: The first C-295 transport aircraft manufactured by Airbus for the Indian Air Force at Seville, Spain. DINAKAR PERI

The second C-295 will be delivered in May 2024 followed by seven aircraft in 2024 at the rate of one per month, said Jorge Madrid, head of C-295 India-version development programme.

In September 2021, the Defence Ministry signed a ₹22,000-crore deal with Airbus and Space S.A., Spain, for procurement of 56 C-295MW transport aircraft to replace the Avro aircraft in service with the IAF. As per contract, 16 aircraft would come in fly away condition, manufactured at the Airbus facility in Seville, and 40 would be manufactured in India by Airbus jointly with TASL.

Eventually, IAF will become the largest operator of the C-295.

Mr. Tamarit said the contract involving 'Make-in-India' and offset obligations is unprecedented. Airbus has not done a full production system ever, he said stating the deal involves 30% offset obligations on top of 'Make-in-India' obligations.

The contract includes service support programme: spares, ground support and test equipment, tech publications, training, training devices, performance-based logistics contract. In March, the contract for Performance Based Logistics for five years was signed as per which a fleet availability rate of 85% would be ensured.

The FAL spread over 36 acres will be ready by mid-2024 and operations will start by November 2024. All parts produced in Hyderabad will be shipped to Vadodara for the final assembly. The MCA in Hyderabad is set to start production by next week beginning with the rear-end fuselage, followed by rear fuselage, centre fuselage and so on. We are doing fortnightly deliveries of tail parts to India, Mr. Tamarit said. These are for the 17th C-295 which will be the first aircraft to be manufactured in India.

Indigenous radar warning receiver and missile approach warning systems made by Bharat Electronics Limited and countermeasure dispensing system made by Bharat Dynamics Limited have been certified and installed on the first aircraft, Mr. Madrid stated.

In all, 14,000 detailed parts would be made in India and roughly around 3,500 parts will be industrialised every year, said Mr. Tamarit. The project will create 15,000 direct jobs and 10,000 indirect jobs over 10 years.

(The writer was in Spain on the invitation of Airbus.)

India supports U.N. on Black Sea initiative

Press Trust of India
UNITED NATIONS

India voiced support for the UN's efforts in continuing the Black Sea Grain initiative, and expressed hope for an early resolution to the impasse.

Russia on Monday had said it was terminating the implementation of the Black Sea Grain Initiative – a UN-brokered deal that allowed food exports and fertilizers from Ukraine amid the ongoing conflict with Russia.

Wellness webinar to mark World Brain Day tomorrow

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

To mark World Brain Day, Kauvery Hospital will present *The Hindu* Wellness Series webinar on taking care of the brain at 11.30 a.m. on Friday.

The panellists include Dr. Sivarajan Thandeeswaran, Senior Consultant, Neurology and Neuroscience, Kauvery Hospital, Chennai and Dr. S. Srihari, Consultant, Brain and Spine Surgery, Kauvery Hospital, Tiruchi.

The topics to be covered are ischemic stroke and haemorrhagic stroke. The webinar will be moderated by Soma Basu, Senior Deputy Editor, *The Hindu*. Those interested in attending the webinar can register on bit.ly/3Dk6DGy or scan the QR code.

INDIA a work in progress, adds Bharat to its tagline

Assam CM slams INDIA as a 'colonial' name; Opposition leaders say tagline will be '*Jeetega* Bharat', translated into several languages; Congress posts slogan variant: *Judega* Bharat, *Jeetega* India

Sandeep Phukan
NEW DELHI

A day after naming itself INDIA, the Opposition coalition added Bharat to its tagline.

The name chosen by the group of 26 Opposition parties – Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance, or INDIA – sparked off a political controversy, with Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma targeting it as a "colonial" name. "Our civilisational conflict is pivoted around India and Bharat. The British named our country as India. We must strive to free ourselves from colonial legacies. Our forefathers fought for Bharat, and we will continue to work for Bharat. BJP for BHARAT," he tweeted on Tuesday.

Slamming Mr. Sarma, Opposition leaders said they had finalised *Jeetega* Bharat (India will win) as the alliance's tagline, though they had not yet officially announced it.

Win against: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, and West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee, addressing the press, Bengaluru. K MURALI KUMAR

Slogan variants

However, even within the Opposition bloc, there were minor differences on what the actual tagline is.

"*Judega* Bharat, *Jeetega* India [Bharat will unite, India will win]," the Congress's official Twitter handle posted on Wednesday, as it released a video including former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi's comments in Bengaluru, explaining how the Opposition bloc decided to call itself INDIA.

The party's communications chief, Jairam Ramesh, went a step further, connecting the slogan to Mr. Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra. "The essential message of the Bharat Jodo Yatra: *Judega* Bharat. The essential message of the Bengaluru conclave of 26 political parties: *Jeetega* INDIA," he tweeted on Tuesday.

However, on Wednesday, Trinamool Congress leader Sabha Derek O'Brien retweeted a news report that said, "*Jeetega* Bharat tagline for opposition parties' alliance INDIA."

Sources told *The Hindu* that "*Jeetega* Bharat" or "India will win" is the main tagline, which is likely to be replicated in several regional languages.

During the closed-door meeting in Bengaluru on Tusday, several Opposition leaders, emphasised the need to include the word "Bharat" to describe the alliance.

Girding for a polarised election, BJP bets on small parties too

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

The meeting of the National Democratic Alliance, with many of its 38 constituent parties having just one or no MP, on Tuesday might have looked like an exercise to trump the Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA), the Opposition grouping that took concrete shape in Bengaluru the same day.

But BJP leaders say the prospect of a heavily polarised Lok Sabha election in 2024 means every vote counts and the party will need the support of even entities with a smaller footprint.

At the NDA meeting in New Delhi, at least nine of the 38 alliance partners did not contest the 2019 election, while 16 do not have a single MP. Of the 45% vote share that the NDA got in 2019, a figure raised by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the meeting, the BJP scored 37%, while all others put together could not even hit double digits. And yet, BJP leaders say their allies are particularly important in Bihar, Maharashtra, and Uttar Pradesh.

Evenly matched: Prime Minister Narendra Modi being greeted by NDA leaders at a meeting of the alliance in New Delhi. RAHUL SINGH

In Bihar and Maharashtra, the BJP will be going into the 2024 election without its 2019 allies. In Bihar, the party will have to deal with the formidable arithmetic of the *Mahagatbandhan*, or grand alliance.

"In 2019, Jitan Ram Majhi's Hindustan Awam Morcha got 2.4% of the vote in the State, Upendra Kushwaha's Rashtriya Lok Samata Party 3.6%, and the Ram Vilas Paswan-led Lok Janshakti Party 6%. The election will be highly polarised on caste lines, and having any party in the middle as a vote cutter will hurt our prospects. While this combination did not work in the 2015 Assembly election, the scenario in 2024, with Nitish Kumar out, we feel it will make a difference," a source said.

Some relief

In Maharashtra, the splitting of the Shiv Sena and the Nationalist Congress Party will, BJP leaders say, provide some relief from the consolidation against the BJP by the Maha Vikas Aghadi.

In Uttar Pradesh, NDA partner Apna Dal (Sonelal) with 1.2% of the vote got two seats, while the NISHAD party managed one seat, because it was in alliance with the BJP in 2019. In the 2022 Assembly election, the NISHAD party had a seat adjustment of 10 seats of which it won six. The party polled less than 1% of the vote.

The BJP wants to strengthen its position with an alliance and shore up its position in eastern Uttar Pradesh by tying up with the Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party.

Most of these parties have influence over certain sections of society and in some districts, which can mean the difference between winning and losing there. "The two big alliances are going to ensure that this election will be highly polarised, therefore even small vote percentages are crucial," said a BJP leader.

Army officer dies, 3 soldiers injured in Siachen fire

The Hindu Bureau
LEH

An Army officer was killed and three soldiers were injured in a fire at the Siachen glacier in Ladakh on Wednesday.

"A fire incident occurred at Siachen glacier Wednesday morning in which a Captain rank officer died and three soldiers were injured," the Army said.

The incident took place around 3 a.m. The deceased has been identified as Captain Anshuman Singh, Regimental Medical Officer.

Three other personnel suffered smoke inhalation and second-degree burns and have been safely air evacuated for further treatment. "Condition of the injured is reported to be stable," the Army said.

Opposition outraged by Manipur viral video

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

As two-month-old visuals of two Kuki women in Manipur's Thoubal district being paraded naked went viral on Wednesday, political leaders expressed outrage on social media platforms.

In a late-night tweet, Union Minister for Women and Child Development Smriti Irani said she had spoken to Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh about the video. "The horrific video of sexual assault of 2 women emanating from Manipur is condemnable and downright inhuman. Spoke to CM @NBirenSingh ji who has informed me that investigation is currently underway & assured that no effort will be spared to bring perpetrators to justice," tweeted Ms. Irani.

Her tweet followed after several Opposition leaders slammed the government for its silence.

Terming sexual violence against women "heart wrenching", Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said women and children had to bear the brunt of the violence in any society.

"We must all condemn the violence in one voice while furthering the efforts for peace in Manipur. Why have the Central Government and Prime Minister shut their eyes to the violent incidents in Manipur? Do such pictures and violent incidents not disturb them?" asked Ms. Vadra on Twitter.

Former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi, who had visited Manipur in the last week of June, also questioned the Prime Minister's silence.

PM's silence

"PM's silence and inaction led Manipur into anarchy. INDIA will not stay silent while the idea of India is being attacked in Manipur. We stand with the people of Manipur. Peace is the only way forward," Mr. Gandhi tweeted referring to the common stand taken by the opposition bloc of INDIA. The Congress will also be moving an adjournment motion on the first day of the Monsoon Session of Parliament on Thursday and would insist on a response from Prime Minister Modi.

CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury tweeted, "PM Modi continues to remain silent even after this horrendous double engine horror. Silence reflects inhuman callousness. Such barbarism is criminal & abhorrent".

Nitish denies being upset at INDIA

The Hindu Bureau
PATNA

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, who skipped the Opposition's joint press conference on Tuesday, hit back at BJP leaders who claimed that he was upset about not being named as the convener of INDIA, the new Opposition alliance.

"It was a fruitful meeting and everything went well," Mr. Kumar said.

'PM should apologise for his *revadi* remark'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

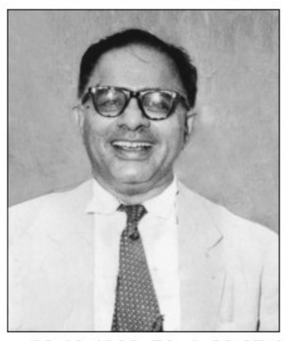
Prime Minister Narendra Modi should apologise to the women of the country for referring to welfare schemes as *revadi* (freebies), the Congress said on Wednesday (July 19) as the Karnataka government launched Gruha Lakshmi scheme to transfer ₹2,000 to the woman head of a family.

Party general secretary Randeep Surjewala, addressing a press conference at AICC headquarters, said the scheme was the "biggest attack on the BJP-made inflation".

He said Mr. Modi should take a cue and adopt the path shown by the Congress government in Karnataka of adopting welfare schemes for the people.

The Congress leader said the Modi government should reduce the prices of LPG cylinders, petrol and diesel and other essential commodities. "The Prime Minister should apologise for insulting welfare oriented governments and welfare schemes as '*revadis*'.

In fond memory of
Sri P. BRAHMAYYA GARU
on the occasion of the
FORTY THIRD
Death Anniversary



Born: 02-10-1908 Died: 20-07-1980
Inserted by:
**Family Members
Partners and Staff of
M/s. BRAHMAYYA & Co.**

Mail ID : sepwdbalangir@gmail.com
GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, BALANGIR (R&B) CIRCLE, BALANGIR
e-Procurement Notice - BID IDENTIFICATION No.CCE(R&B) BGR/10/2023-24
Letter No.2907 // Dtd.15.07.2023

The **Chief Construction Engineer, Balangir (R&B) Circle, Balangir** on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate **composite** bid in double cover system in **ONLINE MODE** for the construction of works detailed in the table below from **B/A Class** Contractors registered with the State Governments and contractors of equivalent Grade / Class registered with Central Government / MES / Railways for execution of Civil works. The proof of registration from the appropriate authority shall be enclosed along with the bid.

1. Nature of Work : **Building Works / Road Works**
3. No. of tender : **Building works - 6 Nos & Road Works - 03 Nos**
4. Tender Cost : **Rs.10,000/-**
5. Class of Contractor : **B/A Class**
6. Date & Time of sale & Receipt of Bids : From **Dt.26.07.2023, 10.00 A.M.** to **Dt.09.08.2023 up to 05.00 P.M.**
7. Date of Opening of Bid : **Dt.10.08.2023 at 11.00 A.M.**
8. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: **http://tendersorissa.gov.in.** All future corrigendum will be available on ONLINE MODE only.

Chief Construction Engineer, Balangir (R&B) Circle, Balangir.
B-508: OIPR-34131/11/0011/2324

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA email : serwsbd2003@yahoo.com
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, SUNABEDA.
No: **e-Procurement Notice for Road Work** Date:

1. Name of the Work : **Periodical Maintenance of 5 Years Completed PMGSY Road (43 Nos)**
2. Class of Contractor : **"B" & "A" Class** of (Odisha PWD) or relevant class of other licensing authority.
3. Estimated Cost : **Varies from Rs.104.12 Lakhs to Rs.422.02 Lakhs (Approximately)**
4. Details projects as per Annexure attached :

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender online for bidding From	To	Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender Technical Bid	Financial Bids
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sunabeda	**CCERWCSBD - Online - 11/2023-24**	**01.08.2023 at 11.00 A.M.**	**28.08.2023 up to 05.30 P.M.**	**25.08.2023 up to 2.00 P.M.**	**29.08.2023 at 11.00 A.M.**	**To be intimated separately**

5. The details of works can be seen from the web site : **https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in**
6. Any Corrigendum / Addendum will be displayed in the above e-tender web site.

Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sunabeda.
O-415: OIPR-25182/11/0014/2324

idco Your power to grow ISO 9001 & 14001 Corporation | ODISHA NEW OPPORTUNITIES
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (P&C), IDCO, IDCO TOWER, BHUBANESWAR
Tender Call Notice No. H.O./P&C/EST-E-2397/03/2023 / 21787, Dated : 13.07.2023
NOTICE INVITING TENDER THROUGH e-PROCUREMENT - Bid Reference No. P&C/EST/E-75/2023-24

Name of the Work : **Construction of SFRC/RCC Pre-cast pre-tensioned compound wall around IDCO Land at Digoda under Balikuda Tahasil of dist:- Jagatsinghpur.**
Estimated Cost : **Rs.235.78 Lakhs (approx.)**
Period of Completion : **03 (Three) Calendar months.**

Name of the Work : **Construction of SFRC/RCC Pre-cast pre-tensioned compound wall around IDCO Land at Madhuragara, Khamar and Ameipala under Mahakalapda Tahasil of dist - Kendrapara.**
Estimated Cost : **Rs.252.29 Lakhs (approx.)**
Period of Completion : **03 (Three) Calendar months.**

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender On-Line for Bidding From	To
1	2	3	4
Chief General Manager (P&C), IDCO, IDCO Towers, Bhubaneswar.	**Bid Id. No. PC/EST/E-75/2023-24**	**17.00 Hours of 16.08.2023**	**17.00 Hours of 01.09.2023**

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal, www.Tendersorissa.gov.in and Corrigendum if any will not be published in news papers and can only be seen in the e-Procurement portal **www.tenderorissa.gov.in** and **IDCO Website www.idco.in.**

Sd/-Chief General Manager (P&C), IDCO, Bhubaneswar
CAD-1313 OIPR-14003/11/0122/2324

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice
Tender No : 1) WRD/KWA - CE(SR)/TR/7902/2022_26_8_7/1, **2)** WRD/KWA-CE(SR)/TR/7902/2022_26_3_2/1, **3)** WRD/KWA - CE(SR)/TR/7902/2022_5_7_6/1, **4)** WRD/KWA - CE(SR)/TR/7902/2022_5_6_5/1, **JJM** - Kottayam District - CWSS to 13 Panchayaths based on Malankara Reservoir Service Reservoirs, Boosting Stations, Pipe lines, FHTCs etc. in 1) Koottickal, 2) Thalanadu, 3) Moonilavu, 4) Melukavu Panchayaths, **EMD :** Rs. 5,00,000/- Each, **Tender Fee :** Rs. 16540 + (2978) GST Each, **Last Date for Submitting Tender :** 07-08-2023, 03:00 pm, **Phone :** 0481 2562745.
Website : **www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**
Superintending Engineer
KWA-JB-GL-6-764-2023-24 **PH Circle, Kottayam**

LUCKNOW MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, LUCKNOW
T.N. Marg, Lalbagh, Lucknow, Phone-Fax- 0522-2612639
E-mail: nnlko@up.nic.in, Website: https://etender.up.nic.in

Tender Notice No.: D/299/MC/EE/23 **Dated: 18/07/2023**

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

Online bids are invited from bidders for **Selection of Bidder for the treatment of Legacy Waste through Bio-remediation, Resource Recovery and Scientific Rejects Disposal at Shivari Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh** and will be received online on the website https://etender.up.nic.in as per time schedule (key dates) in the notice published on the above website

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Tender Fee Rs.	Earnest Money Rs.	Time Period
1.	"Request for Proposal for Selection of Bidder for the treatment of Legacy Waste through Bio-remediation, Resource Recovery and Scientific Rejects Disposal at Shivari Lucknow (UP)"	Rs. 25,000/- (Rupees Twenty-Five Thousand Only)	Rs. 1,96,80,000/- (Rupees One Crore Ninety-Six Lacs Eighty Thousand Only)	9 Months (275 Days)

Manual for paying processing Fee & EMD Payment Online:

1. Bidder needs to go to https://inouscollect.indusind.com/pay/index.php
2. Fill the details in the form and select the payment type Tender Fee/EMD/ Security Deposit with other details.
3. Post validating, Bidder needs to click on "proceed" Button.
4. Bidder will get the option to pay through Credit Card/Debit Card/Net Banking & NEFT/RTGS Challan Mode.
5. For NEFT/RTGS Challan mode - after generating the challan, bidder needs to initiate NEFT/RTGS through their bank as per the beneficiary details provided in the challan.
6. Bidder can check the status of the payment.

Event of Calendar:

Sl. No.	Events	Date & Time
1.	Online Tender Purchase Start Date	21/07/2023 by 5:00PM
2.	Online Tender Purchase End Date	17/08/2023 by 5:00PM
3.	Online Bid Submission End Date	17/08/2023 by 5:00PM
4.	Hard copy of Technical Submission End Date	18/08/2023 by 5:00PM
5.	Technical Proposal Open Date	19/08/2023 by 11:00AM
6.	Pre-bid Meeting	31/07/2023 by 1:00PM at Lalbagh office

Note: The bidders shall have to submit their bids online and upload the relevant documents from as per key schedule (key dates).

1. The bidders intending to participate in this tender are required to get enrolled/ registered on the e-procurement website https://etender.up.nic.in Enrolment/ registration on the above portal is mandatory.
2. Tender documents can be purchased only online from https://etender.up.nic.in by making online payment as specified above as per key dates. The Bidders shall have to submit their Bids online and upload the relevant documents from as per time schedule (key Dates).
3. Conditional tender will not be accepted and liable to be rejected. LMC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tender without assigning any reasons thereof.
4. Since the online bidders are required to sign their bids online using Digital Certificates. Contractors are advised to obtain the same at the earliest.

Municipal Commissioner,
Lucknow Municipal Corporation

आई सी एम आर-राष्ट्रीय पारम्परिक चिकित्साविज्ञान संस्थान
ICMR - NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TRADITIONAL MEDICINE
Nehru Nagar, National Highway No. 4, BELAGAVI - 590 010.

Applications are invited **upto 10-08-2023 till 5:30 PM** for filling up the following post at ICMR- National Institute of Traditional Medicine, Belagavi.

Sr. No.	Post Name	No. of Vacancies
1.	TECHNICAL ASSISTANT (Pharmacy)	01 (one) - Unreserved

Further details and application form is available at the ICMR (**www.icmr.nic.in**) & ICMR-NITM (**https://icmrnitm.res.in**) website.
Date :**10.07.2023** Sd/-
Place: **Belagavi** **Director**

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION (ISRO)
ISRO-TELEMETRY TRACKING & COMMAND NETWORK (ISTRAC)
(CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP)
Plot No.12&13, 3rd Main, 2nd Phase, Peenya Industrial Estate, Bengaluru-58.
BRIEF TENDER NOTICE E-TENDER

Oh behalf of President of India, sealed item rate e-tenders are invited online from contractors of appropriate class for the following work in NIT by Group Head, ISTRAC, ISRO, Peenya, Bengaluru-58, (Ph: 28094541).

Name of work	**Annual Service Contract for the Operation of Electrical Installations at SCC and NETRA Campus at ISTRAC, Peenya, Bengaluru.**
e-tenders notice	**ISTRAC/CMG/E/MAINT/ETN-24/ 2023-2024 Dated: 18.07.2023**
Estimated Cost put ot tender	**Rs. 60.13 Lakhs**
Tender Document details	**e-Tender**
Period of Completion in months reckoned from the 15th day of date of issue of work order	**12 months** (With a provision to extend the contract for a period of two more years with same terms and conditions)
Period during which the tender documents can be downloaded	From: **16:00 hrs on 19.07.2023 to 09.08.2023 till 16:00 hrs.**
Bid clarifications	From: **20.07.2023 to 10.08.2023 till 16:00 hrs.**
Last date & time of reply to Bid clarification	**11.08.2023 up to 16:00 hrs.**
Last date & time for receipt of tenders	**14.08.2023 up to 16:00 hrs.**
Due date & time of opening of tenders	**16.08.2023 after 11:00 hrs.**
EMD	**Rs. 1,20,260.00**

Interested tenderers may please refer Detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) for eligibility criteria and other details from website: **www.isro.gov.in** and download the tender documents from **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO**

Sd/- Group Head-CMG

INBRIEF

Govt. eases COVID guidelines for international travellers

The Union Health Ministry has further eased COVID-19 guidelines for international visitors, dropping the earlier requirement for RT-PCR-based testing of a random 2% subset of international travellers. The guidelines have been eased after taking note of the prevalent novel coronavirus situation and the significant achievements made in the vaccination coverage across the globe. The new guidelines shall come into effect from Thursday midnight. However, the earlier advice for precautionary measures to be followed by airlines and international travellers in the context of the pandemic shall continue to apply, the Ministry said. PTI

Appoint only medical PG degree holders as faculty: IMA

The Indian Medical Association has sought the intervention of the Health Ministry to ensure that only medical postgraduates be considered as candidates for appointment in the medical colleges to uphold the competency-based medical education syllabus. In its letter to the Health Minister, the association's national president Dr. Sharad Kumar Agarwal said that as per the old regulations of the MCI, non-medical postgraduates in anatomy, physiology, biochemistry, microbiology, and pharmacology were appointed as faculty to a maximum of 30% of the total faculty strength, as there were not enough medical postgraduates.

NIA attaches two properties of man in drug haul case

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has attached two properties of an alleged drug trafficker in connection with the seizure of about 103 kg of heroin smuggled from Afghanistan via the Attari border in Punjab's Amritsar last year. The accused has been identified as Razi Haider Zaidi, whose residential plot measuring 121.35 sq.m in Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh, and a residential two-storey building in Delhi's Jamia Nagar have been attached. The first property was bought in his own name for ₹4 lakh and the second one was purchased for ₹24.5 lakh in his wife's name.

Industry body urges Ministry to reconsider regulatory Bill

An industry body for medical device manufacturers is opposing the Centre's plan to bring the New Drugs, Medical Devices and Cosmetics Bill, 2022 to Parliament in the upcoming monsoon session, and has written to Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, expressing its dismay. The move to introduce and pass the legislation, which aims to regulate drugs and medical devices, has been done without holding even a single meeting with major stakeholders, the Association of Indian Medical Device Industry said. They added that it was strange that the Parliamentary Committee's 138th report, which recommends a separate law for medical devices, had not been taken into consideration.

40% of districts do not have nursing colleges, Health Ministry data show

Centre directs States to correct regional disparity with a new scheme to open nursing colleges; 42% of existing institutions in five southern States, 17% in three western States; India has 35 lakh nurses but only 2.06 nurses for every 1,000 people

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

There are no nursing colleges in 40 percent of districts across India, show Health Ministry data accessed by *The Hindu*. In fact, 42% of nursing institutions are clustered in five southern States, while three western States have 17%.

The Centre has attempted to correct the regional disparity with a scheme to co-locate 157 new nursing colleges in medical colleges by April 2025, and provide short-term training for nurses. However, it says that many States have failed to utilise the scheme properly.

Nursing services form the backbone of any medical establishment. India currently has close to 35 lakh nurses, but its nurse-to-population ratio is only 2.06:1000 against a global benchmark of 3:1000.

Life-savers: About 64% of the nursing workforce is currently trained in just eight States. FILE PHOTO

Though there has been a 36% growth in the number of institutions offering undergraduate nursing education since 2014-15, resulting in a 40% growth in nursing seats, there is a regional skew within these statistics. About 64% of the nursing workforce is currently trained in just eight States; 42% of nursing institutions are concentrated in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana, while 17% are in the western States of Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Maharashtra. Only 2% of nursing colleges are in the northeastern States. The growth of nursing colleges also lags far behind the 81% growth rate of medical colleges, with the number of undergraduate and post-graduate medical seats surging at 110% and 114%, respectively, since 2014-15.

According to the WHO, approximately 27 million men and women make up the global nursing and midwifery workforce, accounting for nearly 50% of the global health workforce. "There is a global shortage of health workers, in particular nurses and midwives, who represent more than 50% of the current shortage in health workers. The largest shortages of nurses and midwives are in Southeast Asia and Africa," a WHO report says.

Scheme funding

The Central government has announced a scheme to set up 157 new nursing colleges co-located with medical colleges in the next two years, with financial support of ₹10 crore a college.

"To expedite this scheme, States would be required to send their proposals for establishing their nursing colleges and to constitute a State level monitoring committee to monitor the progress of the project for timely completion," the Centre has advised, according to a Health Ministry report. It has also expressed its concern about the poor uptake of its Development of Nursing Services scheme in some States. Short-term trainings for nurses have been conducted under this scheme, with 18,600 nurses benefiting from 620 courses. The Centre noted that States such as Delhi, Kerala, Manipur, and Mizoram have benefited from this training scheme, but Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, and Telangana have underutilised this scheme.

MSF asks J&J not to enforce any patent on TB drug

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

As Johnson & Johnson's20-year primary patent on the critical, lifesaving drug-resistant tuberculosis (DR-TB) drug bedaquiline expired in a majority of countries including India on July 18, Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors Without Borders (MSF) reiterated its call for the U.S. pharmaceutical corporation to publicly announce that it will not enforce any 'secondary' patents for the drug in any country with a high burden of TB.

The firm should withdraw and abandon all pending secondary patent applications for this critical drug everywhere, it said.

MSF also called for a commitment from J&J not to take any legal action against any generic manufacturer that exports generic versions of bedaquiline to or from TB high-burden countries where secondary patents on the drug exist.

India climbs seven points to 80 on Passport Index; Singapore at top position

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

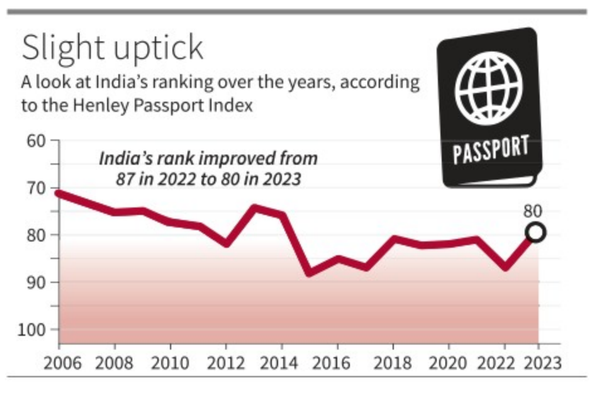
India has climbed seven places on the Henley Passport Index, 2023 to the 80th rank from 87 last year, though the number of countries allowed visa-free access to Indian passport holders remains unchanged.

The Henley Passport Index is the ranking of all the world's passports according to the number of destinations their holders can access without a prior visa. The index includes 199 passports and 227 travel destinations.

The index is brought out by Henley and Partners.

In 2014, India ranked 76 with 52 countries allowing Indian passport holders visa-free access, but its performance has not been linear. It ranked 88 in 2015 (visa-free access to 51 countries), 85 in 2016, 87 in 2017, 81 in 2018, 82 in 2019 and 2020, and 81 in 2021.

Japan, which occupied the top position on the Henley Passport Index for five years, dropped to the third place. It was replaced by Singapore, which is now officially the most powerful passport in the world, with its citizens able to visit 192 travel destinations out of 227 around the world visa-free.



Germany, Italy, and Spain occupied the second place. Alongside Japan at the third position are Austria, Finland, France, Luxembourg, South Korea, and Sweden. The U.K. climbed two places to occupy the fourth place, while the U.S. continued its decade-long slide down the index, dropping two places to the eighth spot. Both the U.K. and the U.S. jointly held the first place on the index nearly 10 years ago in 2014.

Henley & Partners also conducted an exclusive new research resulting in the Henley Openness Index which measures how many nations does a country allow visa-free access to. Here, India was ranked 94 out of a total of 97 ranks for allowing only four countries visa-free access. At the bottom of the Index were four countries for scoring zero for not permitting visa-free access for any passport – namely, Afghanistan, North Korea, Papua New Guinea, and Turkmenistan.

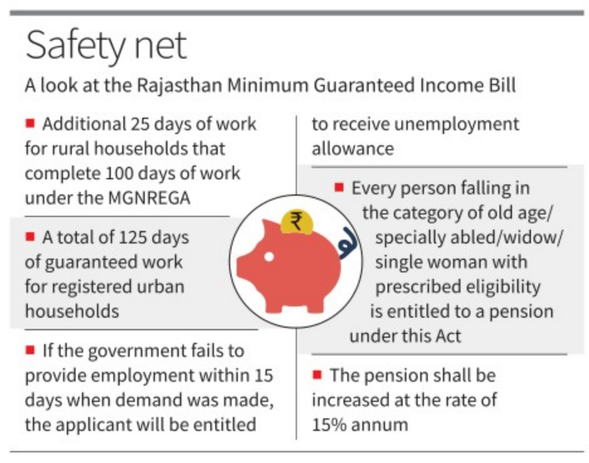
Congress brings in Bill promising minimum income in Rajasthan

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

Congress-led Ashok Gehlot government on Tuesday introduced 'The Rajasthan Minimum Guaranteed Income Bill, 2023' in the Assembly, what is widely expected to be the last session before the State goes to the polls in less than four months. The legislation, for the first time in the country, provides legislative backing for urban employment guarantee schemes and also makes pension a legal right with the provision of a 15% annual increment.

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot shot off a letter to Prime Minister demanding that such a law should be brought for the entire country. The Rajasthan cabinet also passed a resolution to this effect on Wednesday.

Ahead of the 2019 Lok Sabha election, the Congress in its manifesto had promised Nyay – which offers ₹72,000 each annually as a minimum income to the 20% families in the poorest of the poor category. Since then, the party has rarely spoken about the scheme. This Bill comes the closest to the Congress's 2019 promise.



Every adult person residing in rural areas of the State shall have a right to get guaranteed employment for doing permissible work of at least additional 25 days in a financial year on completion of maximum days of work as prescribed by the Union government's MGNREGA Scheme.

Every person falling in the category of old age, specially abled, widow or single woman with eligibility shall be entitled to pension under this Act. And this pension will be increased at the rate of 15% a year.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Mr. Gehlot said, " It is the "right" of one and all to be able to lead their life with dignity."

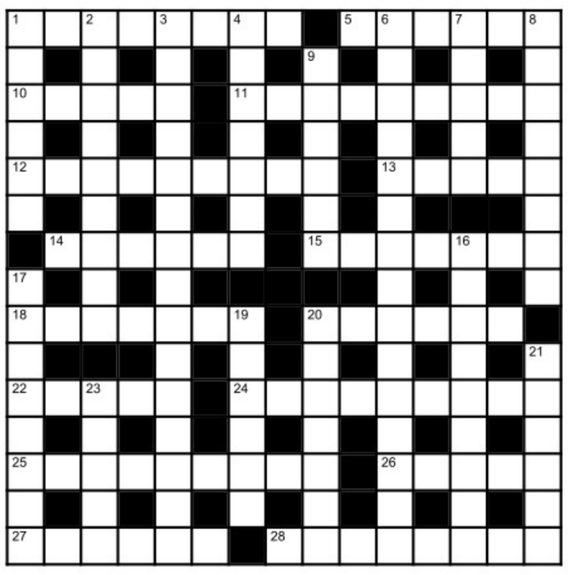
Other States have in recent years introduced employment guarantee schemes for the urban areas but only via executive order.

TH CROSSWORD + 13922

(set by Dr. X)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 What model might say she's doing is impressive (8)
5 Most thrilled, about to marry in European country (6)
10 Spies capturing old leader of terrorists in Brazilian municipality (5)
11 Sparkle in court, case resolved (9)
12 Criticism by newly-wed crushes groom's heart, terribly sad (9)
13 Batter in decline after gaining pounds (5)
14 Funny scene about a meeting to raise the spirits (6)
15 Connects parts to conserve power (7)
18 Muffins, tea? Deli sandwiches, alternatively (7)
20 Supporting retired man in difficulty (6)
22 Many crave for hidden treasure (5)
24 Knocking back gin, miss cuddling lover finally mated (9)
25 Promiscuous actor chasing lady in set is millionaire (9)
26 One with snare crossing large creek (5)
27 Root may be run out, leaving Australia's captain excited (6)
28 Groupie in rave taking off posh gown (8)

Down

1 At home, youngster gets essentially weird nightmares (6)
2 Glib Spanish man going around with society lady providing financial support (9)
3 What to do when national anthem's played at event? Behave formally (5,2,8)
4 Include new species of atom (7)
6 Fantasy of fling with hunk is exciting (7,8)
7 Play diamond ace to secure slam (5)
8 Taunts son? That's uncalled-for (8)
9 Kisses girl on drive back (6)
16 Tenor in control, a fantastic voice (9)
17 Criticize film about the French student (8)
19 Take off in record-breaking run (6)
20 Better U-shaped glass tube (7)
21 Journalist in English retro bar, drinking Italian vermouth (6)
23 Bit of cold drink with bit of booze (5)

SUDOKU

	9	4				8		
	5	8	9					3
							4	
			7		8	6	2	
			4		2			
	3	9	6		5			
	6							
3					9	2	8	
		7				3	1	

No.SS5863 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

	W	H	O	O	P	I	N	G	C	O	U	G	H	
		A		N		N		L		H		R		
S	K	I	N	T		C	H	A	R	M	L	E	S	S
E		R		H		A		M		Y		N		E
C	O	N	V	E	R	S	I	O	N		G	A	Y	A
O		E		R				R		E		D		S
N	A	T	I	O	N	S		G	U	A	R	A	N	I
D				P		P		A		R				C
S	O	T	H	E	R	E		N	E	W	Y	O	R	K
I		U		S		C				I		W		N
G	A	M	E		D	I	V	E	R	G	E	N	C	E
H		B		T		F		G		G		G		S
T	A	R	G	E	T	I	N	G		I	R	O	N	S
		E		E		E		A		N		A		
	C	L	A	S	S	S	T	R	U	G	G	L	E	

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

5	9	6	1	7	4	2	8	3
1	4	8	2	6	3	5	9	7
3	7	2	5	8	9	1	4	6
8	6	5	3	9	2	7	1	4
9	2	4	6	1	7	8	3	5
7	1	3	4	5	8	9	6	2
6	3	9	8	2	5	4	7	1
2	8	1	7	4	6	3	5	9
4	5	7	9	3	1	6	2	8

FAITH

Significance of *Aadi Pooram*

Certain months in the Tamil calendar such as *Aadi*, *Purattasi* and *Margazhi* are celebrated as special. During these months bhakti overflows in a significant manner, starting with *Aadi*, which also signals the start of festivities spreading over months; it is the sacred time for embarking on agricultural activity, of remembering our ancestors, and seeking divine blessings for prosperity and procreation. It is under the *Pooram* star in the month of *Aadi* that Goddess Bhooma Devi took avatar as Andal in Srivilliputtur, and showed humanity how to reach God through simple bhakti margam. On this auspicious day, women offer bangles to Ambal and celebrate Her trimester. One should not equate trimesters merely with birth of humans, but view it in the larger context of material, familial and spiritual *vriddi* – progression, said Suchithra Balasubramanian in a discourse.

Ambal, the goddess, is the *loka Janani*. Without Her blessings nothing on earth will grow and flourish and the importance of the food chain cannot be emphasised enough. The festival of bangles holds special significance at the Neelayadakshi Temple in Nagapattinam. She is named for Her blue black eyes which are like an ocean – an endless skyline of kindness to all living things. We are all held by one fear, the fear of mutation, be it crops, flowers, our progeny and our progress towards reaching His abode. Praying to Ambal and receiving Her blessings will allay these fears and show us how to lead more meaningful lives. It is this faith which voluntarily propels devotees to visit Ambal temples in their localities on *Aadi Pooram* and covet the prasad of *vriddi*.

PARIS

More than 700 sentenced to prison over French riots: Minister

AFP

More than 700 people have been sentenced to prison over riots in France late last month, the country's Justice Minister said on Wednesday while lauding the fast-track trials that have alarmed some defence lawyers. Defendants were convicted on a range of charges from vandalism, theft, arson or attacking police officers. AFP

BANGKOK

Thai Parliament blocks Pita from being renominated for PM post

GETTY IMAGES

The bitter battle to name Thailand's next Prime Minister took a major turn on Wednesday as Parliament voted to deny Pita Limjaroenrat, whose progressive Move Forward Party won a surprise victory in May's election, a second chance to be confirmed for the post. AP

BEIJING

China's top diplomat tells Kissinger 'impossible to contain' China

AP

Beijing's top diplomat Wang Yi told Henry Kissinger on Wednesday that it is "impossible to contain or encircle" China, hailing the former U.S. secretary of state's role in opening up relations between the two powers. Mr. Kissinger's flight to China in 1971 set the stage for the landmark events occured between the two nations. AFP

ABU DHABI

Turkey's Erdogan signs $50 bn in deals during visit to Arab nations

REUTERS

The UAE and Turkey inked on Wednesday several deals estimated to be worth $50.7 billion during a visit by President Tayyip Erdogan to Abu Dhabi as he toured Gulf Arab nations for investment and funds. Agreements included an extradition accord, energy and natural resources development, space and defence cooperation. REUTERS

Crimea evacuates thousands after fire at military facility

Authorities do not specify the cause of the blaze, but some Russian media report that detonations were heard in the area; meanwhile, Zelenskyy says Russian strikes 'deliberately' hit grain deal sites

Agence France-Presse
MOSCOW/KYIV

A fire broke out on Wednesday at a military training field in annexed Crimea, the Russian-installed Governor said, prompting authorities to order the evacuation of more than 2,000 civilians.

Authorities did not specify the cause of the blaze, but some Russian media reported that detonations were heard in the area and footage showed columns of black smoke in the sky.

The news comes after Ukraine this week used waterborne drones to attack the Kerch bridge, a key military supply artery from mainland Russia to annexed Crimea.

"The temporary evacuation of residents of four localities adjacent to the military field in the Kirovsky district is planned. That's more than 2,000 people," said the Moscow-installed head of Crimea, Sergei Aksyonov.

Deadly blaze: Smoke and flames rising during a fire at a military training ground in Crimea on Wednesday. REUTERS

A section of the Tavrida highway that crosses the peninsula had been closed due to the fire.

The Tavrida highway connects the eastern Crimean port of Kerch to the port of Sevastopol on the peninsula's Black Sea coast.

Ukraine's GUR military intelligence denied that its head Kyrylo Budanov had issued a comment on the fire in Crimea.

Spokesperson Andriy Yusov told broadcaster Suspilne that comments carried by several media outlets "that the explosion at the training ground in Crimea was the work of the armed forces and the GUR is a fake."

Meanwhile, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Wednesday said Russian strikes had "deliberately" hit sites in Ukraine used to export grain after Moscow attacked the coastal region of Odesa for a second night in a row.

Russia pounded Ukraine's southern region of Odesa with missiles and drones in the early hours of Wednesday, the second consecutive night of attacks since Moscow pulled out of a grain export deal.

"Russian terrorists deliberately targeted the grain deal infrastructure, and every Russian missile is a blow not only to Ukraine, but to everyone in the world who wants a normal and safe life," Mr. Zelenskyy said on Telegram.

The Office of the Prosecutor General said it was the largest attack on the Black Sea coast of Odesa so far and that 10 civilians, including a nine-year-old boy, had been injured.

Officials said grain terminals and infrastructure in the ports of Odesa and Chornomorsk had been attacked.

Kyiv said Russia had fired air, land and sea-based cruise missiles, including the Kalibr, and 32 Iranian-made drones.

Trump jokes about his legal battles on campaign trail

Associated Press
CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA

Former U.S. President Donald Trump joked about his legal challenges while campaigning in eastern Iowa on Tuesday night, just hours after announcing he had received a target letter in the Justice Department's investigation into efforts to overturn the 2020 election.

Headlining a Republican county meeting, Mr. Trump attacked investigators while trying to make light of what could be his third criminal indictment since March.

"I didn't know practically what a subpoena was and grand juries. Now I'm becoming an expert," he told the audience at an Elks Lodge in Cedar Rapids.

Mr. Trump also taped an interview with *Fox News* host Sean Hannity in front of a live audience, where he vented his frustrations. "It bothers me," he said as he continued to cast the cases as politically motivated. "It's a disgrace what's happening to our country."

Putin will not travel to South Africa for BRICS summit

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Russian President Vladimir Putin will not travel to South Africa to attend the upcoming BRICS summit, his spokesperson has announced. Instead, Mr. Putin will participate in the summit through video conference, Russian President's spokesperson Dmitry Peskov declared in a statement on Wednesday.

"Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov will attend the summit in person," said Mr. Peskov, assuring that the Russian President's participation in the summit would be "full-fledged". Wednesday's announcement has ended speculation about Mr. Putin's presence at the Johannesburg summit that will be held during August 22-24.

South Africa is a member of the International Criminal Court (ICC) which issued a warrant against Mr. Putin in March this year. The action of the ICC put South Africa in a difficult position as it is expected to carry out its obligations as an ICC member.

Mutual accord: Vladimir Putin with Cyril Ramaphosa at the Constantine Palace, outside St. Petersburg on Monday. AFP

President Putin had attended the Bali G-20 summit last year virtually and the latest decision is reminiscent of that event where Russia was represented by Mr. Lavrov. Russia has faced such moments in multilateral engagements repeatedly since President Putin ordered the "special military operation" against Ukraine on February 24, 2022.

Wednesday's announcement came a day after South Africa hosted leaders of political parties from the BRICS member-countries. The summit is likely to provide a glimpse of the moves that will unfold in the run-up to the G-20 summit in India which is on track to be attended by the leaders of the member-countries, including President Putin.

The Johannesburg BRICS summit will include discussion on increasing the number of member-states. That apart, the war in Ukraine is likely to feature prominently as BRICS has emerged as a major forum for dealing with the concerns of the developing economies. President Cyril Ramaphosa said "many countries" were interested in joining the organisation and added, "This is also humbling."

U.S. economist declines top EU antitrust position

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

An American antitrust (competition) economist and Yale professor, Fiona Scott Morton, who was named to lead the European Union's competition regulator, has withdrawn after objections, especially from French President Emmanuel Macron. The objections to Ms. Morton's candidacy included her nationality and the fact that she has worked for tech giants.

The news is significant because American tech companies like Google, Apple and Amazon have been or are the subject of EU competition investigations and tech policy is a sensitive area in bilateral relations between the U.S. and EU.

In a letter to E.U. competition commissioner Margrethe Vestager, Ms. Morton said she was not accepting the role "given the political controversy that has arisen because of the selection of a non-European" for the position.

Speaking to reporters on Tuesday in Brussels, Mr. Macron brought up Europe's strategic autonomy. He asked if there was a European researcher with the qualifications of the job and said it was a matter of concern if there was not.

The French president had, in April, brought up the principle of "strategic economy" in the context of Europe not getting dragged into a U.S.-China conflict over Taiwan.

Mr. Macron, on Tuesday, also cited the principle of reciprocity and said that American and Chinese laws prevents foreign nationals from being hired to key roles in their administrations.

Ms. Morton previously also worked as an economist for the U.S. Department of Justice.

Millions hit by extreme heat on three continents

Agence France-Presse
ATHENS

A sustained spell of dangerous heat was impacting the lives of millions of people across three continents on Wednesday.

Greece was battling wildfires that have been exacerbated by scorching weather and temperature records have been broken repeatedly in the United States, Europe and China. Experts have said climate change, driven by the burning of fossil fuels, has played a key role in worsening destructive weather like the current extreme temperatures.

The heat waves across Europe and the globe are "not one single phenomenon but several acting at the same time", said Robert Vautard, director of France's Pierre-Simon Laplace climate institute.

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice

Tender No : 108,109,110,112,115,116,117/2023-24/SE/PHC/MVPA, **JJM -** Idukki Dt (108) CWSS to Devikulam and Chinnakanal - Supply and Laying CWPM, Construction of sump cum pump house, construction of GLSR at various zones, Supply and erection of Pumpsets, Providing Distribution System FHTC (109) Construction of electrical control rooms at RW pump house, supply, erection of transformers (110) Supplying, laying 350mm, 300mm, 250mm DI/K9 Gravity main and 80mm GI pumping main, improvement work of sump& pump house, Providing wash water disposal pipe line at WTP and interconnection (112) Supply and Laying of CWPMs and gravity mains, Construction of Sump pump houses, GLSRs, Providing Distribution System and FHTC - WSS to Mankulam - Construction of GLSR, Supply and laying CWPM and Gravity main, Supply and Laying Distribution lines and providing FHTC (117) - CWSS to Marayoor - Construction of 3 MLD plant, **EMD :** Rs 1,00,000/- to 5,00,000/-, **Tender Fee :** Rs. Rs.8270/- to Rs.16,540/-, **Last Date for Submitting Tender :** 16-08-2023, 04:00 pm, **Phone :** 0485 - 2835637. Website : **www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**

Superintending Engineer,
PH Circle, Muvattupuzha

KWA-JB-GL-6-738-2023-24

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice

Tender No : Re-E-Tender No 83/2023-24/SE/PHC/CHN, AMRUT 2.0 - AMRUT - Improving water supply to Fort Kochi area - Supplying, laying, testing and commissioning of 600mm DI K9 pumping main for a length of 3300m from Beach road Jn. to Fort Kochi OHSR - Pipeline Work, **EMD :** Rs. ₹ 2,00,000/-, **Tender Fee :** Rs. 13010, **Last Date for Submitting Tender :** 04-08-2023, 03:00 pm, **Phone :** 0484 - 2360645. Website : **www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**

Superintending Engineer,
PH Circle, Kochi

KWA-JB-GL-6-742-2023-24

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice

Tender No : 71-85/2023-24/PHC/KNR, **JJM -** Kasargod District - Karadka, Kumbadje, Delampady, Kodom Belur, Kinanoor Karinthalam, Pilicode (part), Padne, Trikkaripur, Valiayaparamba, Kumbala & Mangalpady, Balal, Maloth Panchayaths - Construction of Intake well, WTP, OHSR, Sump, Transmission main, Gravity main, Pumping main, Distribution system & providing FHTCs, **EMD :** Rs. 200000-500000, **Tender Fee :** Rs. 13010-19518, **Last Date for Submitting Tender :** 05-08-2023, 03:00 pm, **Phone :** 0497 - 2705902. Website : **www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**

Superintending Engineer
PH Circle, Kannur

KWA-JB-GL-6-744-2023-24

tifr
टीआईएफआर–अनुप्रयुक्त गणित केन्द्र, बैंगलुरू–560065, भारत
TIFR-CENTRE FOR APPLICABLE MATHEMATICS, Bengaluru-560065, India
टाटा मूलभूत अनुसंधान संस्थान
TATA INSTITUTE OF FUNDAMENTAL RESEARCH
(भारत सरकार के परमाणु ऊर्जा विभाग की स्वायत्त संस्थान एवं समविश्वविद्यालय
(An Autonomous Institution under the Department of Atomic Energy, Government of India and Deemed-to-be-University)

TENDER NOTICE NO: 04/2023-24

TIFR Centre for Applicable Mathematics invites sealed bids under two bid system from reputed manufacturers or their authorized agents for the supply / installation/ commissioning of the High Performance Computing Cluster at the Centre.
The last date for submission of bid documents is **16th August 2023** at **16:00 hours**
For further details please visit website **http://math.tifrbng.res.in**

Sd/-
Administrative Officer-E

SMART CITY THIRUVANANTHAPURAM LIMITED
4th Floor, Felicity Square Building, Opp. AG Office, Statue, Thiruvananthapuram - 695001, +91 - 0471 - 4010374

CIN U75302KL2017SGC05027
E- TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders are invited for the following projects of Smart City Thiruvananthapuram Limited,

Sl. No.	Name of Project	E-Tender ID	Bid Submission Last Date
1.	Selection of System Integrator for the "Design, Development, Implementation and Commissioning of Intelligent Solid Waste Management System" and carry out Operation & Maintenance for five years.	2023_SCTLT_586112_1	05.08.2023 05:00 PM
2.	Selection of System Integrator for Supply, Installation, Testing & commissioning (SITC) and maintenance of eHealth project by providing Laptops and other peripherals.	2023_SCTLT_585607_1	05.08.2023 05:00 PM
3.	Selection of System Integrator for Supply, Installation, Testing & commissioning (SITC) and maintenance of eHealth project by providing Network active & passive components,Structured Cabling,UPS wiring and supply of UPS.	2023_SCTLT_585611_1	05.08.2023 05:00 PM

Date and Time of opening Price Bid: To be Intimated Separately to Technically Qualified Bidders by Email
All the documents and details are available on the E procurement website.
Bids are only accepted online on the website **https://etenders.kerala.gov.in**

(Sd/-) CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
SMART CITY THIRUVANANTHAPURAM Ltd.

इसरो इंडिया
भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, अंतरिक्ष विभाग / DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
विक्रम साराभाई अंतरिक्ष केंद्र / VIKRAM SARABHAI SPACE CENTRE
निर्माण एवं अनुरक्षण ग्रुप / CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP
तिरुवनंतपुरम / THIRUVANANTHAPURAM – 22 / (फोन नं. / Ph. No. 0471 - 2564568 / 5669 / 4537)

ई-निविदा आमंत्रित करते हुए संक्षिप्त सूचना / BRIEF NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

भारत के राष्ट्रपति की ओर से, निम्नलिखित कार्य के लिए ई-टेंडरिंग द्वारा ऑनलाइन मद-दर निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। On behalf of the President of India, online item-rate tenders are invited through E-tendering for the following work.

कार्य का शीर्षक तथा ई-निविदा सूचना सं. / Title of work & E-Tender Notice No.	पी.ए.सी./P.A.C.
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Vijaypur, Jammu 184120

Advt.No.AIIMS/JAMMU/Fac.Rect/2023/1

VACANCY NOTICE FOR FACULTY / NON-FACULTY POSTS IN AIIMS, JAMMU

All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Jammu, an Institute of National Importance, invites applications from Indian /other citizens as permissible under the applicable Act/Rules for various Faculty/Non-Faculty posts (College of Nursing) on DIRECT RECRUITMENT BASIS.

Vacancy details, General terms & conditions and Prescribed Recruitment Rules etc. for the aforesaid posts will be available at the **www.aiimsexams.ac.in/ www.aiims.edu and www.aiimsjammu.edu.in**

Opening date of Online application is 26.06.2023.
Closing date of Online application is 25.07.2023.

Last date of submission of Hard copy of application form in Recruitment Cell, AIIMS, Jammu is 31.07.2023 at Camp Office: - GMC, Doctor's Guest House, Maheshpura Chowk, All India Institute of Medical Sciences Jammu-180001.

Sd/-
Executive Director & CEO
AIIMS Jammu

INBRIEF

Indian Bank ties up with TAFE to provide tractor finance

Indian Bank has partnered with TAFE (Tractors and Farm Equipment) and its wholly owned subsidiary TMTL (TAFE Motors and Tractors Ltd.) for tractor financing. The tie-up would allow farmers and individuals to avail tractor loans at affordable interest rates with the benefit of hassle-free loan processing, the public sector lender said in a statement. Interested buyers can avail tractor financing benefits from more than 5,700 branches of Indian Bank.

Hatsun Agro Product Q1 net profit rises 54% to ₹80 crore

Hatsun Agro Product Ltd. (HAPL) reported standalone net profit for the June quarter rose 54% to ₹80 crore from the year-earlier period on increased sales volumes. Revenue from operations increased 7% to ₹2,151 crore, while cost of materials grew 12% to ₹1,1514 crore, the dairy products maker said in a regulatory filing. Hatsun Agro's board declared a first interim dividend of ₹6 per share for FY24, to be paid by August 18.

Govt. picks Sat Pal Bhanoo as LIC Managing Director

Sat Pal Bhanoo, Additional Zonal Manager (in-charge) of the Life Insurance Corporation of India's zonal office in Bhopal, has been appointed as Managing Director at the insurer. Mr. Bhanoo has been appointed as an MD vice Siddhartha Mohanty, who is presently serving as chairperson, with effect from the date of assumption of charge of office and up to the date of his superannuation on December 31, 2025, or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

Tata to invest £4 billion for building JLR battery cell gigafactory in U.K.

Tata Sons says facility will produce high-performance, sustainable cells, packs for applications in mobility, energy sectors; Chairman Chandrasekaran emphasises that the 'strategic investment' further strengthens group's commitment to the U.K.

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Tata Sons Pvt. Ltd. on Wednesday said it plans to invest more than £4 billion for setting up a global battery cell gigafactory in the U.K., with a capacity to produce 40GW of cells annually.

"This investment of over £4 billion is an integral part of Tata Group's commitment to electric mobility and renewable energy storage solutions and establishes a competitive green tech ecosystem in the U.K. at scale," the Tata Group's holding company said in a statement.

"The Tata Group is deeply committed to a sustainable future across all of our businesses," said Chairman N. Chandrasekaran. "Our multi-billion pound investment will bring state-of-the-art technology to the country, helping to power the automotive sector's transition to electric mobility, anchored by our own business, Jaguar Land Rover (JLR)," he added.

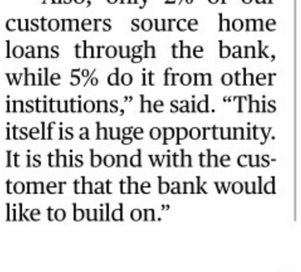
"With this strategic investment, the Tata Group further strengthens its commitment to the U.K.," Mr. Chandrasekaran observed. "It will not only create thousands of skilled jobs for Britons around the country, but it will also strengthen our lead in the global transition to electric vehicles, helping to grow our economy in clean industries of the future." the conglomerate's head said.

Tata Sons said the battery gigafactory would produce high-quality, high-performance, sustainable battery cells and packs for a variety of applications within the mobility and energy sectors.

Production is expected to start in 2026 and JLR and Tata Motors would be the facility's anchor customers, the company said.

Electric investment

Tata's gigafactory, with an investment of over £4 billion, will have a capacity to produce 40GW of cells annually



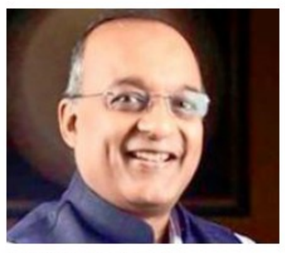
- Chairman says investment reflects group's commitment to electric mobility and renewable energy storage solutions
- Production at the U.K. facility is expected to start in 2026
- Jaguar Land Rover and Tata Motors would be the plant's anchor customers

'Merger couldn't have been better timed'

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The merger of Housing Development Finance Corporation Ltd. (HDFC) with HDFC Bank Ltd. could not have been better timed, Sashidhar Jagdishan, MD & CEO, HDFC Bank Ltd., said in a message published in the annual report. It was an opportunity the bank truly believed in.

He said buying a home was a family decision and an emotional one. This emotion was transferred to the home loan service provider and helped build lifelong bonds with the customer and his family.



Sashidhar Jagdishan

"Also, only 2% of our customers source home loans through the bank, while 5% do it from other institutions," he said. "This itself is a huge opportunity. It is this bond with the customer that the bank would like to build on."

SBI-led lenders said to fund Adani's ₹34,000-cr. project

Janaki Krishnan
MUMBAI

In one of the largest fundraising by the Adani Group from Indian banks since the allegations by Hindenburg Research, a State Bank of India-led consortium of banks is said to have agreed to finance a significant part of the Adani Group's ₹34,000-crore polyvinyl chloride (PVC) project in Mundra.

With this financing, the project is set to achieve financial closure by the middle of August, sources told *businessline*.

Funding for the first phase of the project is being raised from public sector banks, which will pick up the bulk of the tab of about ₹14,500 crore, with private lenders chipping in for the rest.

Adani Enterprises' unit Mundra Petrochem's project envisages setting up a plant with an annual capacity of 1 million tonne in the first phase to be commissioned by 2025-26 at a cost of about $2.5 billion. The capacity is to be doubled in the second phase.

The coal-to-PVC project is a key component of the group's plans to develop a petrochemical cluster at Mundra and central to its strategy of being a significant player in the segment.

The Hindenburg report had derailed the group's bid to raise ₹20,000 crore through a follow-on public offering and set back expansion plans temporarily. (*The writer is with The Hindu businessline*)

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	WEDNESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	67,097	0.45
US Dollar	82.08	-0.04
Gold	60,700	1.08
Brent oil	80.58	1.06

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2423.75	6.85
Adani Ports	731.40	3.25
Apollo Hosp	5175.60	13.00
Asian Paints	3514.65	1.20
Axis Bank	964.30	0.65
Bajaj Auto	4823.65	-36.95
Bajaj Finserv	1644.10	25.80
Bajaj Finance	7584.70	164.70
Bharti Airtel	870.75	-4.70
BPCL	384.55	5.60
Britannia Ind	5065.90	1.75
Cipla	1035.80	5.00
Coal India	228.60	0.35
Divis Lab	3638.05	11.40
Dr Reddys Lab	5221.35	30.35
Eicher Motors	3330.15	-19.10
Grasim Ind	1784.20	9.15
HCL Tech	1169.05	1.85
HDFC Bank	1685.10	7.60
HDFC Life	659.05	2.50
Hero MotoCorp	3096.65	-19.75
Hindalco	439.20	-5.30
Hind Unilever	2671.60	-11.20
ICICI Bank	973.45	-2.00
IndusInd Bank	1419.55	29.30
Infosys	1474.95	-0.25
ITC	478.85	6.35
JSW Steel	791.90	1.00
Kotak Bank	1906.60	15.75
L&T	2494.15	19.45
LTIMindtree Ltd.	4990.50	-10.65
M&M	1544.45	9.75
Maruti Suzuki	9607.55	-58.10
NestleIndia	22940.95	-36.20
NTPC	192.55	5.20
ONGC	166.75	-0.15
PowerGrid Corp	243.25	2.10
Reliance Ind	2841.85	21.40
SBI Life	1310.45	-4.10
State Bank	601.45	9.10
Sun Pharma	1081.85	14.70
TataConsumerProduct	860.45	1.75
Tata Motors	620.60	8.50
Tata Steel	116.70	0.10
TCS	3470.05	-26.80
Tech Mahindra	1244.70	-2.85
Titan	2995.65	-0.80
UltraTech Cement	8329.20	153.20
UPL	639.15	-0.80
Wipro	417.95	0.75

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on July 19

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	81.89	82.21
Euro	91.87	92.23
British Pound	105.84	106.26
Japanese Yen (100)	58.54	58.77
Chinese Yuan	11.34	11.39
Swiss Franc	95.39	95.77
Singapore Dollar	61.74	61.99
Canadian Dollar	62.12	62.37
Malaysian Ringitt	18.03	18.12
Australian Dollar	55.35	55.57

Source:Indian Bank

Sundaram Clayton renamed TVS Holdings Ltd.

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Auto components manufacturer Sundaram Clayton Ltd. (SCL) has been renamed TVS Holdings Ltd. (TVSH).

This follows the amalgamation of TVSH with SCL.

SCL (TVSH) is the promoter of TVS Motor Co. in which it holds 50.26%.

An application for the change of name was filed by SCL with the Registrar of Companies, Chennai which approved the same. The Articles and Memorandum of Association stand amended accordingly, SCL said in a regulatory filing.

Shares of SCL rose ₹130.45, or 2.65%, to close at ₹5052.35 on the BSE.

Wheels India expects double-digit growth in exports in FY24

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Wheels India Ltd. (WIL) is expected to post double-digit growth in exports and strong growth in the bus segment and offshore windmill installations during the current fiscal, top company officials said.

"This year, some growth is expected in the goods segment of the CV industry and strong growth in the bus segment due to a modernisation drive by state transport undertakings, besides strong demand for buses in the school/office segment," chairman S. Ram said while addressing the 64th AGM.

Answering a shareholder's query, MD Srivats Ram said, "The overall business growth prospectus for WIL in FY24 is expected to be moderate in line with the demand projected by its customer industries."

S. Ram

Later, he told *The Hindu* that WIL was expected to post double-digit growth in export business on the back of its strong ties with global OEMs.

Holiday loans see rise in non-metro cities: survey

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

More Indians, especially from non-metro cities, are now availing personal loans to meet vacation-related expenses, according to the findings of a survey conducted by Paisabazaar.

Paisabazaar said the team, which surveyed more than 4,000 respondents from 105 cities and towns who availed a personal loan from its platform in the last six months (January to June), found there had been an increase in demand for holiday loans during Q1 FY24.

Dubai and Goa were the most popular destinations among the respondents, according to the survey.

Cognizant appoints six women SVPs

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Cognizant, a New Jersey-based tech firm, has appointed six women Senior Vice Presidents (SVPs) to boost gender diversity.

They include Elisa de Rocca-Serra, Thea Hayden, Patricia (Trish) Hunter-Dennehy, Sailaja Josyula, Archana Ramanakumar, and Sandra Natardonato.

Ms. Rocca-Serra has been promoted as SVP, EMEA General Counsel and Contract Lifecycle Risk Management (CLRM). Ms. Hayden is now the SVP, Global Marketing. Ms.Hunter-Dennehy will be SVP, Healthcare Provider/Payor Business Unit. Ms. Josyula has been promoted as SVP,

Intuitive Operations & Automation (IOA) for the Banking, Financial Services, Insurance (BFSI) industry for the commercial markets in North America as well as global delivery.

She will also be the Hyderabad Centre Head. Ms. Ramanakumar rejoined Cognizant as SVP, Industry Solutions Group while Ms. Natardonato joined Cognizant as SVP, Partnerships and Alliances.

Dunzo defers pending salary dues till Sept.

Reuters
BENGALURU

Indian on-demand delivery platform Dunzo on Wednesday informed employees that pending salaries since June would be delayed until September, according to an internal email seen by Reuters.

Dunzo, backed by Indian conglomerate Reliance, has recently found itself in the middle of a cash shortage, forcing it to reduce 50% of its dark stores, lay off employees, seek funding from investors and delay salaries.

Dunzo, which had deferred June salaries of some employees to July 20, has now pushed such payments, coupled with increments and variable pay, till September 4, according to the e-mail.

It was not immediately clear how many employees were directly impacted by the move.

Dunzo, which according to media reports had capped salaries at ₹75,000 per month earlier this year, did not immediately respond to Reuters' request for comment.

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CAPTAIN'S BACKING

We need to give opportunities to Ishan, says Rohit

India skipper Rohit Sharma has high expectations from Ishan Kishan and indicated the 25-year-old wicketkeeper-batter will get more opportunities in Tests. "I have had a clear conversation with him on how I want him to play. He has the game and if he wants a bit of freedom to express himself, then that is our job. We will do that."

SPECIAL MOMENT

England shocks Australia, inflicts first ODI series loss since 2013

England beat Australia by 69 runs in the third ODI to end the Ashes 8-8. It was the visitors' first ODI series loss since 2013.
The scores: England 285/9 in 50 overs (Nat Sciver-Brunt 129, Heather Knight 67, Danni Wyatt 43) bt Australia 199 in 35.3 overs (Ellyse Perry 53, Kate Cross 3/48). **PoM & PoS:** Nat Sciver-Brunt.

THE KING

Praggnanandhaa makes the right moves, finishes on top

Young Indian Grandmaster R. Praggnanandhaa emerged champion in the V. Geza Hetenyi Memorial Super GM chess tournament 2023 in Budapest on Wednesday. The 17-year-old GM scored 6.5 points to finish a clear first in the 10-player event. Praggnanandhaa posted five wins, drew three games and suffered only one defeat.

PULLING AWAY

Gall takes stage 17; Vingegaard extends lead on Pogacar

Felix Gall won Stage 17 of the Tour De France, billed as the "Queen" stage with 69km of Alpine climbing, ahead of Simon Yates on Wednesday. Jonas Vingegaard climbed into a rock solid lead as his key rival Tadej Pogacar lost almost six minutes on the toughest climb of the 21 stages.

India will look to maintain its stranglehold on West Indies

The rival teams will face off in their 100th Test against each other; no major changes are expected in the playing XI for the visitors but it remains to be seen if Axar gets an opportunity on a surface likely to offer turn

INDIA IN WEST INDIES

Press Trust of India
PORT OF SPAIN

Ajinkya Rahane will be aiming to pile on the runs to extend his international career and lead India to a series sweep against a feeble West Indies when the second and final Test begins here on Thursday.

The game will mark the 100th Test between the two teams and though India skipper Rohit Sharma said it will be a big occasion, his team will be expected to dominate the West Indies like it did in the series opener in Dominica.

There is a strong chance that India will again bat only once and Rahane will need to make it count with Shreyas Iyer, who is undergoing rehab after a back surgery, expected to be available for the South Africa tour.

No major changes are expected in the playing eleven but it remains to be seen if left-arm pacer Jaydev Unadkat gets another opportunity.

The 31-year-old, who featured in only his third Test in 13 years, was the lone Indian bowler who did not pick up a wicket in Dominica and bowled only nine overs.

India spin duo of R. Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja made merry on a track offering turn in the series opener and another turner is on the cards with the West Indies replacing batting all-rounder Ramon Reifer with spin all-rounder Kevin Sinclair.

India will also be tempted to play another spinner in Axar Patel at Unadkat's or Shardul Thakur's expense.

Yashasvi Jaiswal, who became only the third Indian to score 150 on his debut, will be looking to extend his purple patch and Shubman Gill will be itching to go out in the middle.

Virat Kohli also will be eyeing a big knock after a dogged 76 in the opener.

Barring debutant Alick Athanaze, none of the West Indies batters were comfortable against high quality spin and are likely to struggle if the ball turns as much as it did in Dominica.

West Indies might be better off with a pitch that aids fast bowling, bringing Kemar Roach and Alzarri Joseph in the game.

The teams (from):
India: Rohit Sharma (Capt.), Shubman Gill, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Virat Kohli, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Ajinkya Rahane (Vice-capt.), K.S. Bharat (wk), Ishan Kishan (wk), Ravichandran Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Shardul Thakur, Axar Patel, Mohd. Siraj, Mukesh Kumar, Jaydev Unadkat and Navdeep Saini.
West Indies: Kraigg Brathwaite (Capt.), Jermaine Blackwood (vice-captain), Alick Athanaze, Tagenarine Chanderpaul, Rahkeem Cornwall, Joshua Da Silva (wk), Shannon Gabriel, Jason Holder, Alzarri Joseph, Kirk McKenzie, Kevin Sinclair, Kemar Roach, Jomel Warrican.
Umpires: Marais Erasmus & Richard Kettleborough; **TV umpire:** Michael Gough; **Fourth umpire:** Gregory Brathwaite; **Match Referee:** Jeff Crowe.
Match starts at 7.30 p.m. IST.

India-West Indies Test rivalry hits a century

India and West Indies will be meeting for the 100th time in the longest format when they square off at Trinidad from Thursday. A statistical look at the 75-year journey from Delhi to Port of Spain

H2H

TESTS	Overall	In India	In West Indies
Matches	99	47	52
India	23	13	10
West Indies	30	14	16
Drawn	46	20	26

SERIES*	Overall	In India	In West Indies
Played	24	12	12
India	10	5	5
West Indies	12	5	7
Drawn	2	2	0

** The current series is the 25th between the two sides. India leads 1-0 after the first Test*

THE DECADE-WISE BREAK-UP

	M	India	West Indies	Drawn
1940-49	5	0	1	4
1950-59	10	0	4	6
1960-69	8	0	7	1
1970-79	20	5	5	10
1980-89	19	1	9	9
1990-99	8	1	2	5
2000-09	12	4	2	6
2010-2019	16	11	0	5
2020-	1	1	0	0

- India first tasted success against the Windies in 1971 in Port of Spain. The visitors also clinched the five-Test series **1-0 (D W D D D)**
- India's maiden tour of the West Indies was in 1953. The hosts won the five-Test series **1-0 (D W D D D)**
- India and West Indies locked horns for the first time in 1948 in Delhi. The match ended in a draw. West Indies won the five-Test series **1-0 (D D D W D)**

INDIA	RULING THE CHARTS	WEST INDIES
	BATTING	
Gavaskar (**2749**, 48 inns)	Most runs	Lloyd (**2344**, 44 inns)
Gavaskar (**236** n.o.), Chennai, 1983	Highest	Kanhai (**256**), Eden Gardens, 1958
Gavaskar (**13**)	Most 100s	Sobers and Richards (eight each)
Gavaskar (**774**), 1970-71 in WI (he played in only four Tests in the five-Test series)	Most runs in a series	Weekes (**779**), 1948-49 in India (five Tests)
	BOWLING	
Kapil Dev (**89**, 41 inns)	Most wickets	Marshall (**76**, 30 inns)
Kapil Dev (**9/83**), Ahmedabad, 1983 Subhash Gupte (**9/102**), Kanpur, 1958	Best bowling (innings)	Jack Noreiga (**9/95**), Port of Spain, 1971
Hirwani (**16/136**), Chennai, 1988	Best bowling (match)	Roberts (**12/121**), Chennai, 1975
Ashwin (**6**)	Most five-fors	Marshall (**6**)
Kapil Dev (**29**), 1983-84 in India (six Tests)	Most wickets in a series	Marshall (**33**), 1983-84 in India (six Tests)

SOURCE: ESPNCRICINFO | COMPILED BY **G. PRASAD**

Broad climbs Mt. 600, Woakes picks up four

In bigger league! Broad is elated after having Head on the hook for his milestone wicket. AP

THE ASHES

Associated Press
MANCHESTER

England's Stuart Broad became just the fifth bowler to take 600 Test wickets, as Australia ended Wednesday's opening day of the fourth Test at Old Trafford on 299 for eight.

Marnus Labuschagne and Mitchell Marsh each made 51 after England captain Ben Stokes won the toss in a match the hosts must win to maintain their hopes of regaining the Ashes at 2-1 down with two to play.

Chris Woakes led England's pace attack with four for 52 in 18.5 overs while Broad took two for 68 in 14 en route to his landmark.

On his Lancashire home ground a fortnight short of his 41st birthday, James Anderson had a frustrating day. England's all-time leading Test bowler with 688 wickets, had figures of 0/43 in 17 overs.

History is against England. No side has won a Test at Old Trafford after winning the toss and bowling.

Off Wednesday's first ball, Warner thrashed a wide delivery from Broad for four. Broad, however, moved to 599 Test wickets when he had Usman Khawaja, Australia's other opener, lbw for three.

Woakes struck next to end a second-wicket stand of 46 when he had Warner caught behind off an edged drive, following an assured 32. The next delivery saw star batsman Steve Smith top-edge a pull off Woakes that just cleared Mark Wood at fine leg before going for four.

An increasingly confident Smith drove off-spinner Moeen Ali for a straight six. Having made 41, on a ground where four years ago his double century helped seal a 185-run win over England, Smith was lbw to express quick Wood.

Labuschagne fell one ball after completing his fifty, lbw to Moeen – the only specialist spinner on either side.

600 club in Tests

	Wkts	M
Muralitharan	800	133
Warne	708	145
Anderson	688	182*
Kumble	619	132
Broad	600	166*

**ongoing Test*

SCOREBOARD

Australia — 1st innings: David Warner c Bairstow b Woakes 32, Usman Khawaja lbw b Broad 3, Marnus Labuschagne lbw b Moeen 51, Steve Smith lbw b Wood 41, Travis Head c Root b Broad 48, Mitchell Marsh c Bairstow b Woakes 51, Cameron Green lbw b Woakes 16, Alex Carey c Bairstow b Woakes 20, Mitchell Starc (batting) 23, Pat Cummins (batting) 1; Extras (b-8, lb-3, nb-2): 13; Total (for eight wkts. in 83 overs): 299.
Fall of wickets: 1-15, 2-61, 3-120, 4-183, 5-189, 6-254, 7-255, 8-294.
England bowling: Broad 14-0-68-2, Anderson 17-4-43-0, Woakes 19-4-52-4, Wood 16-4-60-1, Moeen 17-1-65-1.
Toss: England.

India meets Pakistan in its opener in Kandy

ASIA CUP

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

India will open its Asia Cup campaign against Pakistan in Kandy on September 2 while meeting again in a Super 4 clash in Colombo on September 10, as per scheduled released by Asian Cricket Council on Wednesday.

The six-team ODI tournament will start on August 30 in Multan where host Pakistan takes on Nepal.

The tournament is being played in a 'hybrid model' with four matches in Pakistan and nine other games, including the final, in Sri Lanka's Kandy and Colombo.

The final will be held at the Premadasa Stadium on September 17. While India, Pakistan and Nepal constitute group A, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh are in group B.

Similarly, in Group B, Sri Lanka will remain B1 and Bangladesh will remain B2. If any of these teams do not make it to Super 4s, Afghanistan will take their position.

The schedule:
Group stage: Aug. 30: Pakistan vs. Nepal (Multan); Aug. 31: Bangladesh vs. Sri Lanka (Kandy); **Sept. 2:** India vs. Pakistan (Kandy); **Sept. 3:** Bangladesh vs Afghanistan (Lahore); **Sept. 4:** India vs. Nepal (Kandy); **Sept. 5:** Sri Lanka vs. Afghanistan (Lahore).
Super 4s: Sept. 6: A1 vs. B2 (Lahore); **Sept. 9:** B1 vs. B2 (Colombo); **Sept. 10:** A1 vs. A2 (Colombo); **Sept. 12:** A2 vs. B1 (Colombo); **Sept. 14:** A1 vs. B1 (Colombo); **Sept. 15:** A2 vs. B2 (Colombo) **Sept. 17:** Final (Colombo).

Memorable birthday for Harmeet as Challengers halt U Mumba's streak

UTT

Amol Karhadkar
PUNE

Harmeet Desai celebrated his 30th birthday in style. And T. Reeth Rishya ensured that Harmeet's heroics didn't go waste as Goa Challengers ended U Mumba TT's unbeaten run in Season 4 of Ultimate Table Tennis here on Wednesday.

Harmeet earned four of the six points that were up for grabs in his two outings. But in the end, the solitary games that Alvaro Robles and Reeth won in their respective singles ties turned out to be decisive as Challengers won 9-6 to register their second win in three ties.

Aruna, despite a shoulder niggle, started the tie by racing to a 2-0 win. But Robles, the Spanish southpaw, came back to win the third game.

Tough fight: Suthasini had a battle on her hands against Diya.

When Harmeet played, the tie was levelled at three games. Along with Suthasini Saweattbutt, he overcame Manav Thakkar and Lily Zhang in an entertaining mixed doubles duel. The Goa ace then came back after conceding the opening game against his Gujarat junior Manav Thakkar to give Goa a 7-5 advantage going into the decider.

Reeth snatched the second game against Lily – the highest-ranked woman paddler this season – with an impressive display to seal the deal for Challengers. The fact that she hung on to win 11-9 in the last game was the icing on the cake for both her team and her. The most entertaining match, however, turned out to be the first women's singles tie between Suthasini and Diya Chitale, with the promising Indian paddler matching her World No. 38 opponent in pace and tactics.

In a match that left the audience spellbound, both women were involved in long rallies with the 21-shot rally at 3-0 in the second game that went in Diya's favour.

The results: Goa Challengers bt U Mumba 9-6 (Alvaro Robles lost to Quadri Aruna 6-11, 10-11, 11-8; Suthasini Sawettabut bt Diya Chitale 11-7, 11-9, 9-11; Harmeet Desai & Suthasini bt Manav Thakkar & Lily Zhang 11-8, 11-8, 7-11; Harmeet bt Manav 10-11, 11-7, 11-8, T. Reeth Rishya bt Lily Zhang 6-11, 11-6, 11-9).
Thursday's fixture: Chennai Lions vs Bengaluru Smashers (7.30 p.m.).

Pakistan on the cusp of a famous win

Associated Press
GALLE

Pakistan finished the fourth day of the first Test 48 for three while chasing a target of 131 on Wednesday, putting the team on the verge of taking a 1-0 lead in the two-match series against Sri Lanka.

Prabath Jayasuriya dismissed Abdullah Shafique and Shan Masood early and then Noman Ali was run out to reduce Pakistan to 38 for three. But captain Babar Azam (6) and Imam-ul-Haq (25) took Pakistan to safety.

Spinners Abrar Ahmed and Noman Ali claimed three wickets apiece to bowl out Sri Lanka for 279 in its second innings.

Dhananjaya de Silva led the scoring with 82 but there was little support from rest of the batters.

Abrar Ahmed. AP

Since January 2022, Pakistan has played in 11 Tests and has won only one. That victory came in Galle.

The scores:
Sri Lanka 312 & 279 in 83.1 overs (Dhananjaya de Silva 82, Nishan Madushka 52, Abrar Ahmed 3/68, Noman Ali 3/75) vs Pakistan 461 & 48/3 in 15 overs (Imam ul-Haq batting 25).

INBRIEF

Infantino's appeal to fans in last-minute ticket plea

FIFA president Gianni Infantino on Wednesday urged fans to "seize the moment" and snap up Women's World Cup tickets, with most games yet to sell out on the eve of the tournament. There have long been concerns about sales in New Zealand, which will stage the opening game on Thursday in Auckland when the co-host faces Norway. Australia, the other host nation, faces the Republic of Ireland in the second game on Thursday in Sydney's Stadium Australia.

Sanjana-Harmehar bag mixed skeet silver in Jr. World C'ship

Sanjana Sood and Harmehar Singh Lally bagged the mixed skeet silver medal in the Junior World Championship in Changwon on Wednesday.

The results: 25m sports pistol: Junior women: 1. Zuo Qingyi (Chn) 34 (587); 2. Kim Minseo (Kor) 30 (581); 3. Ada Korkhin (USA) 28 (579); 4. Payal Khatri 22 (578); 19. Simranpreet Kaur Brar 574; 24. Naamya Kapoor 571; 25. Divanshi 571; 26. Megana Sadula 570; 33. Tejaswani 563. **50m rifle 3-position: Junior men:** 1. Romain Aufrere (Fra) 459.9 (590); 2. Jens Oestli (Nor) 457.4 (584); 3. Ye Yishun (Chn) 446.4 (588); 4. Sartaj Singh Tiwana 436.2 (584); 16. Shivam Dabas 580; 21. Parikshit Brar 579; 28. Ramanya Tomer 576. **Skeet mixed team:** 1. Italy (Andrea Galardini, Sara Bongini) 43 (141); 2. India (Sanjana Sood, Harmehar Singh Lally) 38 (140)26; 3. USA 41 (140)24; 4. Germany32 (137); 9. India-1 (Raiza Dhillon, Munek Battula) 133.

LIVE TELECAST

BWF: Korea Open, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 5.30 a.m.
Sri Lanka vs Pakistan: 1st Test, day 5, Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 10 a.m.
The Ashes: 4th Test, day 2, Sony Sports Ten 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 3.30 p.m.
UTT: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 7 p.m. onwards
West Indies vs India: 2nd Test, day 1, DD Sports, FanCode & Jio Cinema App, 7.30 p.m.
MLC: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 4 a.m. (Friday)

Jemimah's all-round show helps India level series against Bangladesh with thumping win

She scores a career-best 86, has remarkable figures of four for three as the side wins by 108 runs; Harmanpreet has an injury scare

Inspiring performance: Jemimah's fine display a welcome sign for the Women in Blue. FILE PHOTO: EMMANUAL YOGINI

INDIA IN BANGLADESH

Press Trust of India
MIRPUR

Jemimah Rodrigues made a career-high 86 before taking four wickets with her part time off-spin to set up a series-levelling 108-run win for India in the second women's ODI against Bangladesh here on Wednesday.

Skipper Harmanpreet Kaur (52) and Jemimah (86 off 78) forged a 73-run stand off 91 balls for the fourth wicket to take India to 228 for eight after being put in to bat, a much improved batting effort following a shock loss in the first ODI.

Bangladesh made a poor start to the run chase before a 68-run stand off 92 balls between Ritu Moni (27 off 46) and Fargana Hoque (47 off 81) raised the prospect of a rare series win over India.

They both fell in quick succession and from 106 for three, Bangladesh collapsed to 120 all out in 35.1 overs. Jemimah ended with remarkable figures of four wickets for three runs in 3.1 overs while leggie Devika Vaidya struck thrice.

The two set Bangladesh batters, Ritu and Fargana, were stumped off Devika and Jemimah respectively. Meghna Singh, playing her first ODI since September, removed opener Murshida Khatun (12 off 19).

SCOREBOARD

INDIA

Smriti Mandhana b Rabeya 36 *(58b, 4x4)*, Priya Punia b Marufa 7 *(13b, 1x4)*, Yastika Bhatia run out 15 *(23b, 3x4)*, Harmanpreet Kaur c Rabeya b Sultana Khatun 52 *(88b, 3x4)*, Jemimah Rodrigues st. Nigar b Nahida 86 *(78b, 9x4)*, Harleen Deol c Nigar b Nahida 25 *(36b)*, Deepti Sharma c Murshida b Sultana Khatun 0 *(1b)*, Amanjot Kaur (not out) 3 *(2b)*, Sneh Rana run out 1 *(1b)*; Extras (lb-1, w-2): 3; Total (for eight wkts. in 50 overs): 228.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-17 (Priya, 4.2 overs), 2-40 (Yastika, 10.1), 3-68 (Smriti, 21.1), 4-199 (Harleen, 46.3), 5-224 (Jemimah, 48.6), 6-224 (Harmanpreet, 49.2), 7-225 (Deepti, 49.4), 8-228 (Sneh, 49.6).

BANGLADESH BOWLING

Marufa 10-1-49-1, Sultana Khatun 10-0-41-2, Nahida 10-1-37-2, Fahima 10-0- 56-0, Rabeya 10-0-44-1.

BANGLADESH

Murshida Khatun c Smriti b Meghna 12 *(19b, 3x4)*, Sharmin Akhter lbw b Deepti 2 *(9b)*, Fargana Hoque st. Yastika b Devika 47 *(81b, 5x4)*, Lata Mondal b Sneh 9 *(23b, 1x4)*, Ritu Moni st. Yastika b Jemimah 27 *(46b, 3x4)*, Nigar Sultana lbw b Jemimah 3 *(7b)*, Rabeya Khan st. Yastika b Devika 1 *(3b)*, Nahida Akter b Jemimah 2 *(13b)*, Fahima Khatun (not out) 6 *(6b, 1x4)*, Sultana Khatun c Smriti b Devika 0 *(3b)*, Marufa Akter c Smriti b Jemimah 1 *(2b)*; Extras (b-1, lb-2, w-7): 10; Total (in 35.1 overs): 120.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-14 (Sharmin, 3.4), 2-14 (Murshida, 4.6), 3-38 (Lata, 13.4), 4-106 (Fargana, 28.6), 5-106 (Ritu, 29.4), 6-107 (Rabeya, 30.1), 7-113 (Nahida, 33.1), 8-114 (Nigar, 33.5), 9-115 (Sultana Khatun, 34.3).

INDIA BOWLING

Meghna 7-2-27-1, Deepti 6-2-7-1, Amanjot 5-0-24-0, Sneh 6-0-26-1, Devika 8-0-30-3, Jemimah 3.1-0-3-4.

Toss: Bangladesh; **PoM:** Jemimah.
India won by 108 runs to level series 1-1.
Third and final ODI: July 22, Mirpur, 9 a.m. IST.

Hangargekar's five-for, Sudharsan's century wallop Pakistan-A

EMERGING ASIA CUP

Press Trust of India
COLOMBO

Rising batting sensation Sai Sudharsan's eminently graceful hundred beautifully complemented pacer Rajvardhan Hangargekar's five-wicket haul as India-A crushed Pakistan-A by eight wickets to end league stage with all-win record in the Emerging Asia Cup, here on Wednesday.

Batting first, Pakistan was all out for 205 in 48 overs with Hangargekar taking five for 42 in eight overs and then Sudharsan's unbeaten 104 (110b, 10x4, 3x6) ensured that the meagre target was surpassed in 36.4 overs.

Sudharsan pulled and then lofted senior Pakistan team's pacer Shahnawaz Dahani for back-to-back sixes to complete his fourth List-A hundred.

His 99-run second wicket partnership with Nikin Jose (53, 64b, 7x4)) literally ended Pakistan's hopes of a comeback.

"I was focusing more on risk-free runs. Focusing on ones and twos, and reducing dot balls. Against spinners, it was dicey and tricky wicket to bat. It was better to face against fast bowlers," Sudharsan said.

Stellar shows: Hangargekar started the dominance and Sai Sudharsan sealed the game for India-A. TWITTER/BCCI

The scores:
Pakistan-A 205 in 48 overs (Qasim Akram 48, Rajvardhan Hangargekar 5/42, Manav Suthar 3/36) lost to India-A 210/2 in 36.4 overs (Sai Sudharsan 104 n.o., Nikin Jose 53). **Toss:** Pakistan-A.

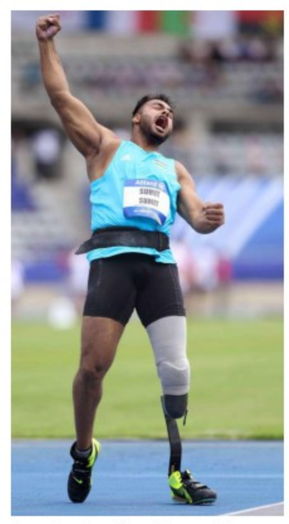
Indian para athletes record best-ever finish at the Worlds

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Headlined by Sumit Antil's world record show in F64 javelin, the Indian team returned home from the Paris World Para Athletics Championships with 10 medals, including three gold, and 17 quota places for the 2024 Paralympics in the French capital.

This was India's best-ever show at a World Para Athletics surpassing the nine-medal tally at the Dubai 2019 Worlds.

Antil, who competed in his first major competition since his record-breaking performance at 2020Paralympics, put up an incredible show to add a Worlds gold. The 25-year-old went on to improve his own World record mark with 70.83m, finishing ahead of Australian Michal Burian (65.21) and Sri Lanka's Dulan Kodithuwakku (64.06).



Javelin star Sumit's world record was the icing on the cake. INSTAGRAM/ PARAATHLETICS

Antil's show was followed up by fellow-thrower Ajeet Singh and Rinku Hooda taking the 1-2 positions in F46 javelin finals.

Ajeet impressed by hurling his javelin to 65.41m for a new championship record while Hooda was just 0.3m behind getting his season's best. Sundar Singh Gurjar settled for the fourth place, fetching India a quota place.

Sachin Khilari's powerful throw of 16.21m in men's shot put was enough to fetch him a World title with an Asian record.

The high jumpers too made a mark with Paralympic medallists Nishad Kumar, Shailesh Kumar and Praveen Kumar taking the silver and bronze medals.

Ekta Bhyan (17.9 3m) claimed bronze with an Asian record in women's club throw.

Damage control in play after Antim and Sujeet move HC against exemptions from trials

WRESTLING

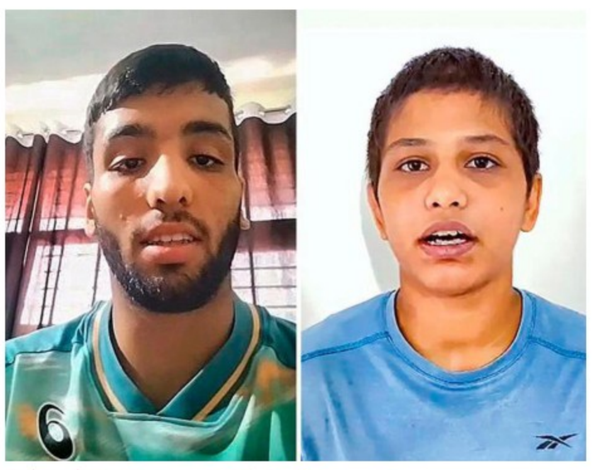
Y. B. Sarangi
KOLKATA

Facing a lot of criticism after exempting Bajrang Punia (65kg) and Vinesh Phogat (53kg) from the Asian Games trials, the Indian Olympic Association-appointed ad-hoc committee tried to control the damage by announcing undated selection trials for the World Championships, scheduled from September 16 to 24 in Belgrade.

The IOA came to the ad-hoc committee's support by issuing a release, which stated that "final assessment of the wrestling team will be made prior to departure of the team" for the Asiad, even as two promising wrestlers, World under-20 champion and Asian silver medallist Antim Panghal and Ranking Series gold medallist and Asian under-23 champion Sujeet Kalkal, on Wednesday moved the Delhi High Court demanding fair trials.

The case will come up for hearing on Thursday.

The World championships will be held from September 16 to 24, while wrestling competitions in the Asian Games will be organised from October 4 to 7.



Going viral: A screen grab of wrestlers Sujeet and Antim speaking in separate video messages demanding fair trials. PTI

The Asiad trials have been scheduled on Saturday and Sunday, while dates for the Worlds trials for 30 weight categories have not been announced yet.

No exemptions

The last date to send entries for the global event, which is also an Olympic qualifier, is August 15. The ad-hoc panel said "no exemption will be given" for the Worlds trials.

In video messages circulated through social media, Antim, Sujeet and Vishal Kaliraman, another prominent wrestler in 65kg, sought fair trials.

"Vinesh has not trained for about a year, whereas I have got medals. All I want is trials," said Antim.

"Bajrang has been getting advantage in trials. Five or six of us can beat him. Everyone should get equal opportunity. I want fair trials," said Sujeet.

Olympic bronze medallist Yogeshwar Dutt came out in support of the aggrieved wrestlers, seeking an answer from the ad-hoc committee.

Noted coach Kuldip Singh also favoured trials. "If you don't do trials, how will you know who stands where?" asked Kuldip.

Prannoy and Rajawat advance; Sindhu out

KOREA OPEN

Press Trust of India
YEOSU

H.S. Prannoy and Priyanshu Rajawat progressed to the second round but P.V. Sindhu and K. Srikanth's inconsistent run continued as they made opening round exits in the Korea Open Super 500 here on Wednesday.

Fifth seed Prannoy registered a 21-13, 21-17 win over Belgium's Julien Carraggi.

The results (first round): Men: H.S. Prannoy bt Julien Carraggi (Bel) 21-13, 21-17; Priyanshu Rajawat bt Ji Hoon Choi (Kor) 21-15, 21-19; Kento Momota (Jpn) bt K. Srikanth 12-21, 24-22, 21-17; Wang Tzu Wei (Tpe) bt Kiran George 21-17, 21-19; Ng Tze Yong (Mas) bt Mithun Manjunath 21-11, 21-4.
Women: Pai Yu-Po (Tpe) bt P.V. Sindhu 21-18, 10-21, 21-13; Zhang Yi Man (Chn) bt Aakarshi Kashyap 21-12, 21-17; Kim Ga Eun (Kor) bt Tasnim Mir 21-11, 21-18; Saena Kawakami (Jpn) bt Tanya Hemanth 21-11, 21-17; Chen Yu Fei (Chn) bt Ashmita Chaliha 21-13, 21-12; Tai Tzu Ying (Tpe) bt Malvika Bansod 21-17, 21-7.
Mixed doubles: N. Sikki Reddy & Rohan Kapoor bt Alvin Morada & Alyssa Ysabel Leonardo (Phi) 21-17, 21-17; Song hyun Cho & Lee Jung Hyun (Kor) bt B. Sumeeth Reddy & Ashwini Ponnappa 23-21, 13-21, 21-12.

SNAPSHOTS

Zhang quits match after disputed call

Chinese tennis player Zhang Shuai quit a match after her opponent rubbed out a ball mark with her foot following a disputed line call at the Budapest Grand Prix.

The second-seeded Zhang retired from the match while trailing 6-5 in the first set against Hungarian opponent Amarissa Toth on Tuesday. The dispute related to a forehand from Zhang that appeared to be in but was called out.

Zhang argued the decision but it stood and the match continued briefly before the disagreement about the line call began again. As Zhang repeated her protests, Toth walked over to the ball mark and rubbed it out with her foot.

Unfair: Toth rubs out the ball mark. TWITTER

McIlroy well-prepped to end Major drought

Rory McIlroy is the bookmakers' favourite to win this week's British Open at Hoylake and the Northern Irishman may never get a better chance to secure the fifth Major title that has eluded him for so long.

McIlroy appeared to have the golfing world at his feet when he won the 2014 Open at Royal Liverpool to secure his third Major crown at the age of 25 and he claimed a fourth weeks later at the U.S. PGA Championship.

Nine years on he has not added to that tally, but the omens are good, despite painful memories of last year's Open at St. Andrews when he was tied for the lead going into the last round but finished third behind champion Cameron Smith after the Australian shot a superb closing 64 to McIlroy's 70. Victory at the Scottish Open on Sunday, however, continued a consistent year in which McIlroy has recorded eight top-10 finishes.

BENGALURU ROUND UP

Shivank shines as S. Blues enters semifinals

Shivank Tiwari scored 26 points as S. Blues defeated HBR BC 62-51 to enter the boys' semifinals of the State sub-junior basketball championship on Wednesday.

The results (quarterfinals):
Boys: S. Blues 62 (Shivank Tiwari 26) bt HBR 51 (Shubh 18); MCHS 45 (Asher 25) bt MNK Rao Park 40 (Ujwal 18); Vimanapura 41 (Pranti 15) bt Koramangala 20; Young Orions 40 (Avyam 24) bt Beagles 27 (Shourya 12).
Girls: All Star Academy, Mysuru 42 (Aanchal 10) bt MCHS 27 (Ayonaa 10); Appaiah 23 (Linisha 13) bt Beagles 16; Young Orions 30 (Manasvi 17) bt PPC 27 (Riddhi 17); S. Blues 42 (Harisri 11) bt YMMA 7.

Hat-trick by Mel Johnson

Mel Johnson's hat-trick powered Stirred FC to a thumping 9-0 win over Jeevan Blues FC in the KSFA Bangalore North & South C-division league on Wednesday.

The results:
Stirred 9 (G. Manju 6, C. Harris Darrell 9, 13, Mel Johnson 27, 41, 50, N. Darshan 29, A. Babu 23, C. Henry Dishon 68) bt Jeevan Blues 0; Victoria 2 (D. Ajay 14, Shakthi 65) bt Gopalan 1 (Nidhish M. Reddy 12); FCM 6 (Riyas 17, 19, 55, 70, Jaish 18, Anees 63) bt Benson Town 0; BPSS 1 (Rahul 60) bt Blue Wings 0; RV 1 (Prajwal 21) bt Olympic S. Raman 0; Maharaja United 2 (Partha Chakrabarti 38, 39) bt Foot Long 1 (Trishanth 57).

BSC MEG & Centre posts win

BSC MEG & Centre pipped DYES-A 5-4 in the Hockey Karnataka League Championship on Wednesday.

The results:
DYES-B 3 (Mourya Thimmaiah 41, R. Vrushab 43, Niketh Gagde 59) drew with AGORC 3 (Mohd. Naeem 14, N.M. Surya 23, Trishul Ganapathi 54).
BSC MEG & Centre 5 (Sanchit Horo 30, Nitesh Sharma 42, Sachin Kumar 48, Manoranjan Minz 51, Chhitij Bara 57) bt DYES-A 4 (Deepak Yadav 7, M.K. Bharath 13, Y.M. Pranam Gowda 41, 58).

Inter-school competitions

Kensri School will conduct its second round of Futures inter-school competition for those in the under-16 and 18 categories on July 22.

Events will be held in football, basketball, volleyball, yoga, cricket, badminton, athletics and tennis.

Call 7353488230 or 9901950267.

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FRONTLINE SPORTSTAR The Hindu Young World THE HINDU

PUBLIC NOTICE

The State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority-Karnataka (Constituted by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC Government of India), has accorded the environmental clearance for the development of commercial office, IT and ITES park, being constructed by M/s Sai Srushti Infrastructure Innovation Projects Private Limited, at property bearing survey numbers 10/1, 10/3, 10/11, 10/12, 11/1 & 11/3 of Devarabeesanahalli village and survey numbers 29/1, 30/1 & 32 of Kariyammana Agrahara village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore Urban District, vide order No. SEIAA 154 CON 2022 Dated 28.06.2023. The said copy of environment clearance is available with the MoEF&CC/ SEIAA/KSPCB office and the website of Environment & Ecology department at **http://seiaa.karnataka.gov.in** and **http://environmentclearance.nic.in**

GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY
BUILDINGS AND ROADS DIVISION
P.W.D., KARAIKAL

e-TENDER NOTICE No.10/PW/B&R/KKL/2023-24, dated 18-07-2023

On behalf of President of India, e-tenders are invited from the eligible contractors/ firms by the Executive Engineer, Buildings and Roads Division, P.W.D., Karaikal for 3 Road Works. Closing time for submission of E-tender is 4.00 P.M. on 03-08-2023. Other details / information can be seen in the website: **https://pudutenders.gov.in**

Sd/-
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER - B&R
P.W.D., KARAIKAL

No. 129/DIP/KKL/ADVT/2023

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDERS
(Only through KPP portal)

BWSSB invites Tenders from Registered agencies for the following works.

Office of the Chief Engineer(WWM-W), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore - 560 009.

Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount Put to Tender(Rs.) / EMD Amount(Rs.)	Last date & Time for submission of tender	Date and time for opening of tender
1	WWM-N H&A.V	BWSSB/EE(WWM N-H&A.V)/PB/233 2023-24 Dated: 07.07.2023	Rs. 32.38 lakhs / Rs. 72,600/-	05.08.2023 upto 5:30 pm	09.08.2023 at 12:00 pm

Sd/- Executive Engineer (WWM N-H&A.V)

Office of the Engineer-in-Chief 2nd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore - 560 009.

2	UFW-2	BWSSB/EE(UFW)-2/PB/122/2023-24 Dated: 15.07.2023	Rs. 39,01,735/- / Rs. 78,035/-	26.07.2023 upto 4:00 pm	27.07.2023 after 4:05 pm
3		BWSSB/EE(UFW)-2/PB/123/2023-24 Dated: 15.07.2023	Rs. 37,68,863/- / Rs. 75,377/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (UFW)-2

The details regarding the tender and participatin in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/JA/606/2023-24

KARNATAKA URBAN WATER SUPPLY & DRAINAGE BOARD KALABURAGI ZONE, KALABURAGI
Office of the Chief Engineer, KUWS & D Board, Kalaburagi Zone,
"Jalbhavan", Rajapur, Kusnoor Road, Kalaburagi – 585105.
Tel : 08472-220817, Fax : 08472-260818, E-mail ID : kwbceklb14@gmail.com

No.KWB/CE(K)/TEC/KHB-Ballari/413/2023-24 Date : 18-07-2023

-: CORRIGENDUM-I:-

1) Detail of Work : Providing and Laying of Water Supply facilities to Sy. No.1015 to 1026 beside Guggarhatti Ring Road in Ballari under DC works with Karnataka Housing Board (Lumpsum)- No Variation **(Work indent: KUWSDB/2023-24 / WS /WORK_INDENT26),** 2) Last Date and Time for receipt of Tenders : **19-08-2023 Up to 17:30 Hours,** 3) Date and Time for Operning of Tender : **21-08-2023 After 11:30 Hours,** 4) Addl. information: Office of the Chief Engineer, KUWS & D Board, Kalaburagi Zone, "Jalbhavan", Rajapur, Kusnoor Road, Tel : 08472-220817, Fax : 08472-260818, E-mail ID : kwbceklb14@gmail.com

Sd/- Chief Engineer
KUWS & D Board, Kalaburagi Zone, Kalaburagi

DIPR/Kalaburagi/124/MC&A/2023-24

Government of Jharkhand
Urban Development and Housing Department
Dhanbad Municipal Corporation, Dhanbad

e-Procurement Re-Tender Notice No. DMC/11/2023-24
NIT No.- DMC/11/2023-24 Date :- 19.07.2023

1.	Name of the work	अटल नवीकरण एवं शहरी परिवर्त्तन मिशन 2.0 **(AMRUT 2.0)** अंतर्गत घनबाद नगर निगम क्षेत्र वार्ड सं0 27 में लोको तालाब का जीर्णोद्धार कार्य। **(2nd Call)**
2.	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Rs. 13,16,03,401.00
3.	Tender Fee and Bid Security	Tender document fee : - INR 25,000/- (Twenty Five Thousand Only) Non-Refundable. Bid Security: Rs **13,16,100.00.00** (Rupees Thirteen Lakh Sixteen Thousand One Hundred Only).
4.	Time of Completion	540 Days
5.	Date / Time of Publication of Tender on Website	21.07.2023 at 03:00 PM
6.	Start Date of Submission of Bids	21.07.2023 at 03:00 PM
7.	Last Date / Time for receipt of bids Online	11.08.2023 (On line) till 03:00 PM
8.	Last Date/Time of Submission of Bid Security Money and Tender Fee	Upto 11.08.2023 till 03:00 PM at DMC, Luby Circular Road, MADA Building, Dhanbad.
9.	Date and Time of Technical Bid Opening Online.	12.08.2023 (On line) from 03:00 PM
10.	Name & address of office Inviting tender	Chief Executive Officer, Dhanbad Municipal corporation,Dhanbad.
11.	Helpline number of e-Procurement cell	**8986892064**
12.	e-mail id	**dhanbadmunicipalcorporationadm@gmail.com**

NOTE:- (i) Only e-Tenders will be accepted. Further details can be seen on website http://www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in.
(ii) Contractor should be registered in Class (I) First class as per NIT
(iii) Estimated Cost / Quantity May Vary
(iv) Any Change/Information can be seen on Website on http://www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in.
(v) EMD and Cost of BOQ/Tender Cost shall be Deposited in a form of Bank Draft only of any Scheduled Indian Bank Payable at Dhanbad in Favor of CEO, DMC, Dhanbad

S/d-
Executive Engineer,
Dhanbad Municipal Corporation, Dhanbad

PR 302693 (Urban Development)23-24*D

SPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA
NETAJI SUBHAS SOUTHERN CENTRE, BENGALURU

ADVERTISEMENT Date:19/7/2023

1. Sports Authority of India, Netaji Subhas Southern Centre, Bengaluru invites applications from eligible, qualified and motivated candidates for the following post purely on contract basis.

S.No	POST	NUMBER OF POST	CATEGORY
1	Lady Warden	01	UR

2. The details of recruitment along with application form are available at SAI website i.e; **http://sportsauthorityofIndia.nic.in** and **http://saibengaluru.com**

3. SAI reserves all the rights to withdraw this advertisement at any time without assigning any reason. For any recruitment related query, e-mail to **jobs.saibangalore@gmail.com.**

Regional Director I/c.
Sports Authority of India, NSSC, Bengaluru

Government of Karnataka Zilla Panchayat, Chitradurga
Office of The District Health and Family Welfare Officer, Chitradurga
Phone No.: 08194-235018 e-mail: dhochitradurga@gmail.com

No.:DHFWOC/ಪಥ್ಯಾಹಾರ/Tender/01/2023-24 /Call-2
Date: 15.07.2023

Short-Term e-Tender Notice

Short-Term e-Tender is invited (second time) for supply of Diet Food, Milk, Bread to two subordinate General Hospitals and eleven Community Health Centres of the District for the year 2023-24. Eligible, registered firms can upload Tenders in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal from 17.07.2023 to 26.07.2023, up to 5.00 PM. Date of opening technical bid of the tender: 28.07.2023 at 11.00 AM. All of the terms and conditions of the Tender can be obtained from website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in (Approx. Amount of Tender is Rs. 156.00 lakhs). Further details contact the Office of The District Health and Family Welfare Officer during office hours.

DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/101/2023-24

Sd/- District Health and Family Welfare Officer, Chitradurga.

I, VEMANA VENKANNA, S/o Vemana Ramamurthy, presently residing at 13th Floor, B-1303, Channasandra Road, Opp Maithri Layout, Near Whitefield Global school, Whitefield, Bengaluru-560 066, have lost Doc bearing No-8109/13/2013, Book-I, dated 11-07-2013, of the Plot No-20, admeasuring 500 sq.yards, in Sy No-791/10, in L P No-62/12/HRO/H1, situated at Kadthal Village & Grampanchayat, Amangal Mandal,Mahabubnagar, District, A-P, and I have given the lost complaint bearing FIR No-0644486/2023, and if found shall call to 9000018827.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to notify for the general information of the public that my Client Smt.Chandramman R/at No.347/1, 2nd Main, Jagajyothi Layout, Janatha Colony, Bangalore South, Kengeri, Bangalore- 560060, has lost the Original allotment letter issued by the Bangalore Development Authority for the site No.259 vide No.BDA/DS-2/259/BLK-V/SMVL/2003-04 during the time of shifting the House at Jagajyothi Layout, for which she has lodged a missing Complaint with the Bangalore City Police as Lost Report No.0598515/2023 dated 12-06-2023.

Any person or Group of Persons or institutions having found the lost document kindly is return to below address with appropriate award. If anybody Right Title, interest Charge, Lien whatsoever over the schedule property may lodge his/her and their/its claim to the undersigned with documentary proof within period of 07 days from the date of this publication failing which it will be presumed that here are no objections /Claims, disputes In respect of the schedule property.

Shivanand Biradar, Advocate
No.23. K No. 2558/25/23, S L Naik Complex, Rajarajeshwari Layout, Kengeri Main Road, Nagadevanahalli, GnanaBharathi, Bengaluru- 560056. **Mobile: 9632396606.**

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client is desirous of purchasing all that piece and parcel of the residential vacant Site No.770, (Sy.No.104/2) AECS 'B' Block, measuring 2400 Sq.Ft. layout formed by the AIRCRAFT EMPLOYEES CO-OPERATIVE SOCITY LTD., Situated at Singasandra Village, Beguru Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, more fully described in the schedule below, from **SRI. NARASIPUR HIRANNAYYA VENKATESH,** Aged about 80 years, Son of late Sri.S.N.Hirannayya & **MRS. USHA VENKATESH,** Aged about 73, Wife of Sri. N.H.Venkatesh, both are residing at P-17, 25th Main, Near R.V. Dental Collage, J.P.Nagar, 1st Phase, Bangalore South, Bangalore – 560078 **(Owners);**

Any person or persons having any claim of whatsoever kind, with regard to the schedule property or any portion thereof, may write to the undersigned within **fifteen (15) days** from the date of issuance of this notice with documentary evidence on which they are basing their claims with regard to the schedule property or any part thereof in any manner whatsoever, failing which may client shall proceed on that basis that there are no claims of whatsoever nature.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the residential vacant **Site No.770,** (Sy.No.104/2) AECS 'B' Block, measuring 2400 Sq.Ft., **BBMP Khata No.DA/PR/768/2009-10,** Beguru BBMP WARD No.191, Layout formed by the AIRCRAFT EMPLOYEES CO-OPERATIVE SOCITY LTD., Situated at **Singasandra Village, Beguru Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk.**

MEASURING
East to West : 60 Feet, North to South : 40 Feet, All measuring : 2400 Sq.Ft.,
BOUNDED ON:
EAST : Site No.769; WEST : Site No.771;
NORTH : Site No.761; SOUTH : Road

B.V. Kiran Kumar & Associates,
BAL, LLB, MBL.
Advocate & Legal Consultants
#59, Money Point, Ground Floor, GF 2.1/2, K.H. Road, Bangalore – 560 027.
E-mail: bvkirankumar1979@gmail.com
Ph: +91 9845322316, 8762681009

PUBLIC NOTICE

That my client **Mr. NAGAMANOJ KARUNAKARAN,** aged about 35 years, s/o. Mr. S.Karunakaran, residing at No.20, New No.5, 1st A Main Road, sudhamnagar, Wilson Garden, Banalore-560 027 has negotiated and entered to an Agreement of Sale to PURCHASE THE BELOW MENTIONED SCHEDULE PROPERTY from the Present owners **Mr. G.SIRAJULLA KHAN,** aged about 69 years, S/o. late Mr. Ghouse Khan and **Mrs. JABEEN SIRAJ,** aged about 58 years, wife of Mr. G.Sirajulla Khan, R/a No.7, Infinity Mango Garden Layout Road, Konankunte Cross, Kanakapura Road Bangalore 560062. If anybody having any claims, right, title, interest or any objections of the proposed sale, may please submit their representations/Objections along with the documentary proof to the undersigned advocate within **7** days from the date of publication of this notice, if no response received from anybody, thereafter my client shall be at liberty to proceed to obtain the Sale Deed in his favour.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Residential House bearing **No.835,** situated at **7th Cross, Sarakki (J.P.Nagar) 3rd Phase, Bangalore** Mahanagara Palike Ward No.57, Bangalore, new Ward No.177, **PID No.57-147-835,** measuring East to West 40 feet and North to South 30 feet along with building and bounded on the:

East by : Road,
West by : Property bearing No.850
North by : Property bearing No.836
South by : Property belongs to BDA

Sd/- **A.Manjunath** Advocate
No.924, 28th Main, 9th Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore-560 069.
Ph: 9845395528

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the general public that our client **Smt. YESHODA ERAPPA** W/o. Sharath Jagannath, No.1487, 11th A Cross, 4th C Main 2nd Stage, West of Chord Road, mahalakshmipuram, Bangalore – 560 086 is intending to purchase the schedule property mentioned hereunder from **Smt. C. SARASWATHI** W/o. Late. C. Bhaskaran, and others No.307, Gokul, I Cross, VI Block, BEL Lay Out, Vidyaranyapura, BENGALURU 560097,; any person/s objecting for the proposed purchase or are having any right, title, interest or any type of claim over the scheduled property is hereby called upon to file their objections/claims what so ever along with documentary proof within **7 days** from the date of publication of this notice with the under mentioned advocate failing which; our clients shall proceed and complete the sale transaction with the above stated person.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Residential Property bearing **Site No.1235,** in Sy.Nos.1 (portion) 2 to 14 and 21 to 25 situated at : **NARASIPURA Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk,** in the layout called **"Vidyaranyapura Layout",** formed by the BHARATH ELECTRONICS EMPLOYEES CO-OPERATIVE HOUSE BUILDING SOCIETY LIMITED., measuring East to West : 40 (Forty) Feet, North to South : 60 (Sixty) Feet, in all 2400 Sq.Feet along with a residential building and bounded on:- **East By: Road, West By : Site No.1237, North By : Site No.1236, South By : Site No.1234.**

C.K.V.K. LAW ASSOCIATES
Mr. VENKATESH CHANDRAN M.A., L.L.B.
Advocates & Legal Consultants
Bangalore-43. M: 9845846428, 9108784843

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the general public that our Client **MR.KAKUMANU PAVAN VISWANATH GUPTA** S/o. Mr. Venkata Veera Raghava Rao, **MRS.KAKUMANU SRIVALLI SUKANYA** W/o.Mr. Kakumanu Pavan Viswanath Gupta, are intending to purchase the schedule property mentioned hereunder from **MR.N.R. MUNIRAJU** S/o Late K. Ramaiah any person/s, Company, Banks, Financial Institutions etc objecting for the proposed purchase or are having any right, title, interest or any type of claim over the scheduled property is hereby called upon to file their objections/claims what so ever along with documentary proof within **7 days** from the date of publication of this notice with the under mentioned advocate failing which; our client/s shall proceed and complete the sale transaction with the above stated person.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Immovable property bearing No.110/8 (Sy. No. 110/8) (Old Sy. No. 110/5), situated at Nagondanahalli Village, K. R. Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore, Measuring 02.04 Guntas i.e. (eradu kalu guntas) or Measuring East to West 48.55 Feet (14.8 Meters), and North to South 50.52 Feet (15.4 Meters), Approximately measuring 2452 Square Feet or 227.92 Square Meters, and bounded on the:- East by: 20 Feet Road in same Sy. No. from Govt. Road West by: Property belongs to Eranna North by: Property belongs to Shankarappa South by: Property belongs to Rajanna @ Rajappa.

C.K.V.K. LAW ASSOCIATES
Mr. VENKATESH CHANDRAN M.A., L.L.B.
Advocates & Legal Consultants
Bangalore-43. M: 9845846428, 9108784843

CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, HAVERI - 581110

Website: www.havericity.mrc.gov.in Tele Phone no: 08375-232444
E-mail: itstaff_ulb_haveri@yahoo.com Janahita Help line: 080 - 23108108

REF NO>CMC/CIVIL/CR- /2023-24 **Date:18-07-2023**

TENDER NOTECE

The Municipal Commissioner, City Municipal Council, Haveri (Civil Works invites tenders of Rs. **201.77** Lakhs in the e-procurement portal, Interested Contractors can refer and participate in this website **kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and for further clarifications visit CMC Office Haveri

DIPR/Haveri/85/2023-24/DeshpandePublicity

Sd/- Commissioner, CMC, Haveri.

Directorate of Training and Employment
Govt. ITI (Women) Campus 26-EC Road, Dehradun – 248001.
Email- Director.training@dteu.in

NOTICE FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (Establishment of advanced training Labs in Centre of Excellence@SkillHub Sahaspur)

Directorate Training and Employment, DSDE, Govt. of Uttarakhand intends to improve the quality and relevance of ITI training and skill development ecosystem. As a part of the strategic initiatives, DTE intends to **partner with industry leaders to establish advanced training Labs in Centre of Excellence that is being established at SkillHub, Sahaspur, Dehradun.**

Through this notice, The Director, DTE intends to invite reputed industry leaders to participate and send their expression of Interest in accordance with the REOI (Request for Expression of Interest. A pre-consultation meeting is scheduled to take place at the address mentioned above on 31.07.2023 at 1100 Hrs. In case of difficulty in attending the meeting physically a virtual pre-consultation meeting can be held. REOI can be downloaded from www.uksdm.org and https://dsde.uk.gov.in/. EOIs should reach the office at the address mentioned above or through email mentioned above latest by **1700 Hrs. on 16-08-2023**. Any amendment regarding EoI will be published in above departmental website only

Director

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN:U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No: CEE/SLDC/SEE-SCADA/EE(D)/AEE-Proj/2023-24/1497 Dt: 19.07.2023

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(E-PROCUREMENT MODE ONLY)

KPTCL, invites bids against Enquiry No. **KPTCL/CEE/SLDC/ SEE-SCADA/007/2023-24,** for Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Hardware & Software for work of Analytics & Reporting Tool for SCADA Data in KPTCL. The bids will be received through e-procurement portal only. The details regarding the subject enquiry in the e-procurement portal can be obtained by logging on to **htpps://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **24.07.2023** and the last date & time for receipt of bids in e-portal is **02.08.2023, at 17:30 Hrs.** Any extensions of due date for bid submission will be intimated in the e-procurement portal. Any details required in this regard can also be obtained from the office of the undersigned during office hours. All Corrigendum /Addendums shall be noticed by the bidders before the last date of submission of the bids.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, Electy.,
SLDC, KPTCL, No.28, Race Course Cross Road,
A.R.Circle, Bengaluru-09. Ph: 080-22267034

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION (ISRO)
ISRO-TELEMETRY TRACKING & COMMAND NETWORK (ISTRAC)
(CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP)
Plot No.12&13, 3rd Main, 2nd Phase, Peenya Industrial Estate, Bengaluru-58.

BRIEF TENDER NOTICE E-TENDER

Oh behalf of President of India, sealed item rate e-tenders are invited online from contractors of appropriate class for the following work in NIT by Group Head, ISTRAC, ISRO, Peenya, Bengaluru-58, (Ph: 28094541).

Name of work	**Refurbishment of Mission Analysis room of SCC building at SCC Campus, ISTRAC, Bengaluru (Electrical works)**
e-tenders notice	**ISTRAC/CMG/E/MAINT/E-TN-22/ 2023-2024 Dated: 18.07.2023**
Estimated Cost put ot tender	**Rs. 12.53 Lakhs**
Tender Document details	**e-Tender**
Period of Completion in months reckoned from the 15th day of date of issue of work order	**Two (02) months**
Period during which the tender documents can be downloaded	From: **16:00 hrs on 19.07.2023 to 31.07.2023 till 16:00 hrs.**
Bid clarifications	From: **11.00 hrs on 20.07.2023 to 01.08.2023 till 16:00 hrs.**
Last date & time of reply to Bid clarification	**02.08.2023 up to 16:00 hrs.**
Last date & time for receipt of tenders	**03.08.2023 up to 16:00 hrs.**
Due date & time of opening of tenders	**07.08.2023 after 11:00 hrs.**
EMD	**Rs. 25,060.00**

Interested tenderers may please refer Detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) for eligibility criteria and other details from website: **www.isro.gov.in** and download the tender documents from **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO**

Sd/- Group Head-CMG

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Road Infrastructure - Yalahanka Division, 3rd Floor, Mini Vidhanasouda, Yalahanka, Bengaluru - 560 064

No: EE/RI/YNK/TEND/01/2023-24 **Date: 19.07.2023**

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Request for Proposal)
(Through **GOK e-Procurement Portal** only)

The Executive Engineer (RI- Yalahanka Division), BBMP, Bengaluru invites Competitive Bids from reputed Firms/ Companies/Agencies for the work of **"Annual Maintenance of Arterial and Sub Arterial Roads including Footpath in Yalahanka & Byatarayanapura Constituency area of RI Yalahanka Division.**

Package	Approx. Length in Kms	EMD (in ₹)
Annual Maintenance of Arterial and Sub-Arterial Roads including Footpath Excluding Potholes in Yalahanka Constituency area of RI Yalahanka Division	**19.48 Kms**	**55,000**
Annual Maintenance of Arterial and Sub-Arterial Roads including Footpath Excluding Potholes in Byatarayanapura Constituency area of RI Yalahanka Division	**29.23 Kms**	**82,000**

Calendar of Events : (1) Downloading of RFP Document from E-Procurement is **21.07.2023.** (2) Pre-Bid Meeting will be held at Office of the Engineer in Chief, 1st Floor, Annex-2 Building, BBMP, NR Square, Bengaluru - 560 002 on **25.07.2023** at **4:00** pm. (3) Last date for Submission of Bid Document is **31.07.2023** at **4:00** pm. (4) Opening of Technical Proposal is **02.08.2023** at **2:30** pm. (5) Opening of Financial Proposal will be Intimated to the bidders. (6) This tender notice can also be seen on the BBMP Website: **www.bbmp.gov.in.** Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours on working days or from website: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Road Infrastructure- Yalahanka Division

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, MARIAMMA, W/o Xavier Curisinkel Daniel, R/a #72, Johns Cottage, 2nd Cross, 2nd Main, Balaji Layout, Babusapalya, Bengaluru-560043 have changed my name to Mariamma Xavier Curisinkel vide affidavit dt: 14.07.2023 sworn before Notary S.I.Balaguru, B'lore

I, G SHANKAR, S/o P Ganapathy, R/a No.15/A, 2nd Cross, Pottery Town, Bangalore North, Bangalore-560046 have changed my name to G Victor Joshva Shankar vide affidavit dt: 18.07.2023 sworn before Notary Uday Kumar.K, B'luru

I, VEDAVATHI Dondemadhahalli Honnaiah, W/o. Suresh G., R/o. No.69 Sridevi Nilaya, 4th Main, 1st Cross, Kalathur Layout, Gangamma Circle, Jalahalli, Bengaluru- 560013, have changed my name from Vedavathi Dondemadhahalli Honnaiah to Vedavathi Suresh, vide affidavit, dated: 19/07/2023, sworn to before Notary Public, G.P.Chaya,Bangalore.

I, SRIDHARA Murthy, Nagasamudra Math (Sridhara Murthy N.M.), S/o. Ajjaiah N.M., R/o. No.45, 1st Main, 2nd Cross, Byraveshwara Nagar, Laggere, Bengaluru- 560058, have changed my name from Sridhara Murthy Naga Samudra Mata to Sridhara Murthy Nagasamudra Math, vide affidavit, dated: 19/07/2023, sworn to before Notary Public, G.P.Chaya,Bangalore.

I SHARANABASAPPA S/o Kallyani Residing at Mogha B Tq:Aland dist: Kalaburagi Karnataka have changed my name Sharanabasappa to Sharanabasappa Fulari vide affidavit dated 15 July 2023 sworn before notary Deeparani Kulkarni

I, SHYAM Sundar Bahety, S/o Rajkumar Bahety, R/at No.8 G7 Royal Classic Apartment, Subramanyapura Main Road, Padmanabhanagar, Opp. Gowdanapalya Bus Stop, Bengaluru-560061 have changed my name from Shyam Sunder Bahety to Shyam Sundar Bahety vide affidavit dated 06-07-2023 before Notary Neha Baddi, Bengaluru.

I, PRAPULLA Manjunatha Reddy, R/at No.63-64, SLV Nilaya, 3rd Cross, 4th Block, Brundavan Layout, Ayyappa Nagar, K R Puram, Bangalore - 560036 have changed my name to Devarabisnahalli Janardhana Reddy Prapulla, vide affidavit dated 18-07-2023 before Notary Y.R.Chandrasekar, Bangalore.

SITUATION VACANT

FINANCE

KANNUR UNIVERSITY
(ADMINISTRATION BRANCH)
ADMIN/AD-A2/11507/2022(1)
13.07.2023

NOTIFICATION

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for appointment to the post of **Finance Officer** in the University on Direct recruitment/ Deputation basis from the Government of Kerala or Government of India service. For further details visit :
www.kannuruniversity.ac.in

Sd/
Thavakkara Registrar (i/c)

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PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE
MADRAS RACE CLUB
CIN : U74999TN1922NPL001455
Regd. Office : Post Box 2639
Guindy, Chennai – 600032.
Website : www.madrasraceclub.com
Tel. No. 91-44 22351171/2/3/5 & 22350774
Email Id : secretary@madrasraceclub.com

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022-23

Notice is hereby given that the **Annual General Meeting ('AGM')** of the **MADRAS RACE CLUB** ('The Club') for the year 2022-2023 is scheduled to be held on **Wednesday, 16th August 2023 at 3.00 p.m. (IST) at the Registered Office of the Club, situated at Guindy, Chennai – 600032, and also through Video Conference ("VC") / Other Audio Visual Means ("OAVM")** to transact the business, as set out in the Notice of the AGM. Instructions for Members intending to attend the AGM at the Venue and vote at the venue or join the Annual General Meeting electronically and vote electronically are detailed in the Notice of the AGM.

Notice of the AGM along with the Annual Report 2022-2023 has been sent through electronic mode to those Members whose e-mail addresses are registered with the Club and hard copy has been posted to those who do not have or who have not furnished the email id. The same will also be available on the Club's website at **www.madrasraceclub.com** and on the website of National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL), **www.evoting.nsdl.com** the service providers for assisting such members who wish to participate in the meeting electronically.

Club Members are requested to register / update their email address by writing to the Club with details of their membership number and attaching a self-attested copy of PAN Card as identity proof and self-attested copy of any document (viz. Driving Licence, Election Identity Card, Passport) in support of the address of the member at **secretary@madrasraceclub.com** or to **evoting@nsdl.co.in**

The Club has engaged the services of NSDL as the authorised agency for assisting Members in participating in the AGM electronically and for providing e-voting facility. Members can cast their vote online from **10.00 A.M. (IST) on Sunday, 13th August 2023, till 5.00 P.M. (IST) on Tuesday, 15th August 2023.** At the end of remote e-voting period, the facility shall be disabled. The Members who have cast their vote by remote e-voting prior to the AGM may also attend / participate in the AGM through VC / OAVM but shall not be entitled to cast their vote again.

Only those members, whose names are recorded in the Register of Members as on the 'cut-of-date' ie. **Friday, 7th July, 2023** only shall be entitled to vote.

In terms of Articles of Association of the Club, no Club Member shall be entitled to vote at or take part in any meeting of the Club until all moneys due to the Club by him have been paid. Hence, Club Members are requested to settle all their dues on or before **5.00 P.M. on Wednesday, 9th August, 2023** in order to cast their vote.

Queries / grievances, if any, with regard to e-voting, may be addressed to the Secretary, Madras Race Club, through e-mail at **secretary@madrasraceclub.com** OR may please visit Help and FAQs section available at **www.evoting.nsdl.com** or contact toll free No. **022 - 4886 7000 / 022 - 2499 7000 / 1800 102 0990 / 1800 224 430.**

By Order of the Committee of Management of MADRAS RACE CLUB
S.NIRMAL PRASAD
Secretary

Place : Chennai
Date : 07.07.2023

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